

New Owner Finally for Schlage Lock Property



Universal Paragon Corporation recently took over ownership of the Schlage Lock site from Ingersoll Rand.

by Fran Martin

Renaissance of the Valley

The recent announcement that the developer, Universal Paragon Corporation (UPC), has taken over ownership of the Schlage Lock site from Ingersoll Rand (IR) is the culmination of 10 years of advocating for community planning by the Visitation Valley Planning Alliance to bring neighborhood serving retail, open space, community resources and housing to the blighted and polluted site. Once a thriving industrial site, Schlage Lock has, unfortunately, long been an eyesore and a drain on the revitalization of Visitation Valley.

Although it is a time to celebrate, it is also a time to focus our energies on working with the developer and the City to turn over 20 acres in the heart of the Valley into a progressively developed, green and beautiful centerpiece for our neighborhood — a place where we can shop, enjoy recreational areas, meet new residents, and take advantage of community resources such as will be housed in the renovated Old Office Building on Blanken. The entire community must be involved in the decision about the use for that building, which will require a separate process of its own.

We have a lot of work ahead of us in the next few years and, most immediately, in the next several months.

Site History

The Schlage Lock site has been contaminated over the years by pollutants from the lock manufac-

turing process and the Pacific Lithographic Company, which was located at Bayshore Boulevard and Sunnydale Avenue. The most serious pollutants are VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) in the groundwater, particularly on the southern portion of the parcel. The VOCs, specifically chlorinated hydrocarbons, were used in vapor vats to clean the locks and then were allowed to sink into the groundwater.

Today, citrus-based solvents are used instead. The contaminated areas have been monitored and a process for remediation (clean-up), including a pump and treat system, has been in place since 1994, but much more needs to be done. The effort has reduced the spread of contamination, but has not cleaned up the source.

Universal Paragon Corporation owns the former railroad yards, the Baylands (660 acres), in Brisbane as well as an adjacent parcel in the southeast corner of San Francisco's Schlage Lock site. In 2005, UPC brought a 100 million dollar lawsuit against Ingersoll Rand to force a clean-up, because its land was being polluted by toxics in the groundwater originating from the IR property. As a result of lengthy negotiations, the suit was dropped and the land and the clean-up liability has been transferred to UPC under a complex insurance agreement.

Over the years, the biggest obstacle to development had been Ingersoll Rand's insistence that whoever developed the site would indemnify them against future litigation due to harm that might be caused by pollutants on the site. In

order to come to an agreement, UPC has formed a partnership with a third party remediation team - Brownfield Partners/MACTEC - which will assume the liability and do the clean-up. The insurance company, AIG, will insure the process for 35 million dollars for the next 15 years. Needless to say, the negotiation process was quite complex and time consuming, but now UPC owns the land, an important step toward site clean-up.

Meanwhile, through the long-term efforts initiated by the Visitation Valley Planning Alliance working with Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, the Redevelopment Agency was brought in to help develop the site with the ultimate threat of Eminent Domain. This was the only alternative at the time, after Ingersoll Rand had stood in the way of prospective developers interested in developing the site according to the concepts agreed upon by the community.

Even more important at this point, the Redevelopment Agency can bring tax increment financing to revitalize the neighborhood and help finance the clean-up costs for the developer. The tax increment financing derives value by diverting new tax revenue resulting from increased value of new development and investing these funds into enhancements for the area. There will be no displacement of any residents living in the future Redevelopment Area. *See Page 3*

Program Ensures a Green Summer in Visitation Valley

by Aaron D. Kudatsky

Many might have seen or visited some of Visitation Valley's Greenway Project lots, but may wonder who takes care of this all.

On June 7, a Greenway Gardeners workday was held to help support the six garden plots throughout the Valley.

The Greenway Project is cared for by the neighborhood's Green Stewards Program, (made up of community members of all ages) whose goal is to bring the community together and restore the neighborhood to the way it used to be.

Long term, a goal is set to create an organization for the community to keep this project going. This month, volunteers focused on the Herb Community Garden, located between Teddy and Arleta avenues.

Gier Hernandez, a Visitation Valley resident and a student of local Phillip & Sala Burton Academic High School, really enjoys this

project. He volunteers his time once a week to help take care of the community gardens. Gier also enjoys the outdoor trips (camping, kayaking, skiing etc.) held by the Green Stewards program.

Coordinated by valley residents Fran Martin and Anne Seeman, gardeners meet once a month (usually the fourth Saturday of every month) to focus on a certain portion of the six Greenway lots. A variety of plants are grown in the gardens including herbs, fruit trees, and native plants.

Though some people in the neighborhood have their own plots of the gardens, the harvested produce/food is shared with one another.

Though the Greenway Gardens were acquired by the community many years ago, the land remains the property of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. The Visitation Valley Greenway

Project is funded by the State of California, Trust in Public Land and by the S.F. Recreation and Park Department.

The Greenway is used in a variety of ways; as a Community Outdoor Classroom but also by major businesses like Google and Levi Denim Co. which hold company parties in the gardens.

The Greenway Project and the Green Stewards Program are good ways for people in the community to get to know each other and also show a good 'face' to our neighborhood. The Green Stewards Program is now recruiting high school students from around the city. Flyers will also be posted around the neighborhood to help recruit members of the community. If you are interested in becoming a Green Steward or for more information, you may call Fran Martin at (415) 468-0639 or e-mail Anne Seeman at sguanne@yahoo.com.

State Funding to Muni for Security

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security announced June 12 that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will receive over \$7 million to improve security and public safety on San Francisco's transit system, the Municipal Railway (Muni).

This award is part of the larger allocation to the San Francisco Bay Area of approximately \$21 million to cover various security and safety projects such as lighting, fencing, cameras and communication technology.

These funds come from voter-approved state Proposition 1B, passed by California voters in November 2006, which enacted the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006.

"The safety and security of our customers and employees are our

highest priorities," said Nathaniel Ford, director of the SFMTA. "I am very proud of the work done by our Operations and Security and Enforcement Divisions to ensure a safe and secure transit system. I am committed to ensuring that our staff members have what they need to improve our system and help our customers."

The SFMTA funds will go primarily towards improving security surveillance and security measures at SFMTA facilities and towards purchasing one incident command bus and two command vans. These command vehicles will allow SFMTA Security and Enforcement personnel to fully monitor emergency and large-scale events, better support Muni Operations and improve their coordination with other city departments.

New Condo Development on Geneva

by Russel Morine

Visitation Valley has a new addition to the housing choice family with the opening of yet another moderate scale condo development. Highpoint Luxury Homes, located at 1888 Geneva, bills itself as "Where Inspiration Meets Opportunity."

Whereas this tagline is somewhat hard to quantify, the finished product is a refreshing surprise. The Highpoint development works because it utilizes a steeply inclined and oddly shaped site along a busy corridor in a marginalized neighborhood to its full advantage.

The first thing that one will notice about Highpoint is its massive scale amongst single-family homes and low-rise buildings. Highpoint sticks out, not so much the proverbial sore thumb, but maybe more like a finger pointing to sky.

Depending on your architectural preference, you can decide which finger. It's different, but given the predominance of bland cookie cutter designs these days at least with Highpoint there's something of substance to talk about.

Highpoint is best viewed from a



Highpoint Homes on Geneva Avenue.

distance. At street level the building is a fortress like (maybe it should be called Castle Highpoint?) with limited direct entry points. There's no evidence of internal activity for the passerby to gaze upon. On a busier pedestrian street this would have been inexcusable. Fortunately for this block of Geneva Boulevard, which is unusually long and uninterrupted, there is little reason to stroll from any given point A to B.

The façade's one saving grace is an inclined elevator that is accessed from a street level glass enclosed lobby. A cool feature that may be seldom used because the primary entrance for future residents will likely be through the development's parking garage.

New Home Market Searching for Bottom

The pace of home sales at California new-home communities continued to remain slow in April, but year-over-year sales declines shrunk slightly for another consecutive month, the California Building Industry Association reported on June 19.

The monthly CBIA/Hanley Wood Market Intelligence (HWMi) New Home Sales and Pricing Report showed that new-home sales in April were 44 percent below April 2007. While a significant decline, the drop is an improvement from the year-over-year decline of nearly 49 percent in March.

During April, 3,246 homes and con-

dominiums were sold in the subdivisions tracked by Costa Mesa-based HWMi, compared to 5,785 in April 2007. Sales of single-family homes dropped by 42 percent, while sales of townhomes and "plexes" - duplexes, triplexes, etc. - were down 41 percent and sales of condominiums were down 54 percent.

Robert Rivinius, CBIA's President and CEO, said the continued weak sales numbers - which are causing builders to reduce construction - demonstrate the need for policy makers in Sacramento and the nation's capital to take quick action to jumpstart the housing market.

Leland Avenue Street Fair Returns To Visitation Valley on Sunday, September 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The Third Annual Leland Avenue Street Fair is looking for volunteers, vendors and sponsors. To get involved, contact VVBOOM Program Manager Nick Wolff at (415) 587-7896, ext. 104.

Grapevine Mailbox

Muggings and Robberies In Ingleside Police District

Incidents have varied: purse-snatching at the bus stop; mugging at the BART stations; strongarm robbery in a residential area; robbery at a local business — all at various times of the day and night. However, several robberies have occurred between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. at night, carried out by suspects in cars.

Crime prevention tips to reduce your risk of being robbed:

*Be aware of your surroundings at all times, paying close attention to suspicious activities and persons. Carry yourself with confidence and alertness.

*Use all your senses to be aware — avoid using headphones or cell phones, which limit your ability to be aware of what's going on around you.

*Try to travel with someone, or travel when there are other people around.

*Avoid dark alleys, shortcuts and deserted areas.

*Be aware before entering and exiting your vehicle — at home or elsewhere.

*Park your vehicle in a well-lit area with plenty of walking traffic. Using public transportation:

*Try to wait at bus stops or BART stations that are well lit and populated;

*Find out ahead of time when the next bus arrives so your wait time is limited;

*Do not use headphones or cell phones while waiting;

*Pay attention to those who exit the bus/train with you; also pay attention to those waiting at the stop as you exit.

*Limit your valuables that you carry — such as money and credit cards; keep them in separate areas in your purse or clothing.

*Remember to trust your instincts; if you feel uncomfortable or threatened, seek help immediately. Use a noise device such as a whistle to call attention to yourself.

If you suspect suspicious persons or activities, do any of the following: change your walking direction; do not get off of the bus/train; go into a public place; seek help; call 9-1-1.

Remember:

*If you are robbed, try to stay calm and cooperate. Call 9-1-1 immediately.

*9-1-1 for emergencies; (415) 553-0123 for non-emergencies.

*To reach 9-1-1 from your cell phone for emergencies, dial (415) 553-8090 (to avoid being diverted to CHP Dispatch Center in Vallejo due to close proximity of cell phone towers near the Interstate freeways).

*Ingleside Police District Station number: (415) 404-4000.

-SF SAFE

Safety During Summer

This summer, Got Milk? along with health professionals throughout California are teaming-up to provide tips for parents on how to keep kids safe from injuries and broken bones. Summer is the time of year when millions of children attend various camps, many of which are sports-related. From basketball to tennis to football and even hockey, kids need to be physically prepared for their sport of choice or injuries could occur.

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, about 3.5 million children ages 14 and under receive

medical treatment after getting injured from playing sports every year. Doing proper exercises, wearing protective gear, and eating nutrition foods are key to preventing injuries.

Many medical experts say one of the main reasons sports-related injuries have increased over the years is because children are not getting enough calcium. The problem is exacerbated by poor nutrition due to the popularity of sodas and caffeinated drinks that could deplete calcium in the body. The National Institutes of Health reports over 90 percent of girls and 75 percent of boys ages 9 to 13 have inadequate calcium intake.

"These statistics are alarming and continue to grow," says Dr. Andres Smith, emergency room physician at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center in the San Diego area. "This age group is at the most critical time for bone growth and parents must address the issue of calcium deficiency with their active children or face serious consequences in the emergency room."

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, most sports-injuries in kids 14 and under result from falls, being struck by an object or collisions. Doctors say one way to prevent such injuries is by getting enough calcium in the diet, which includes at least three daily servings of low-fat or nonfat dairy like milk. "Milk continues to be the number one source of calcium for strong bones," says Dr. Smith. "Plus it contains other nutrients like vitamins D, A, B12, potassium and magnesium."

The Safe Kids Campaign also suggests the following tips in preventing sports injuries for the summer:

*Before participating in a sport or athletic camp, children should receive physical exams from their pediatrician to determine their general health.

*Children should always wear sport-specific properly fitting safety gear when participating in sports-related activities.

*Make sure children are enrolled in the proper age-group or skill level of their particular activity.

*Make sure kids play in a safe environment like rinks, courts, fields, etc. that are free from debris or cracks that could cause injury.

*Provide children with the adequate training or exercises when learning a new sport.

Fabiola Brenes

Getting Ready for Fishing in the Heat

by Boyd Duckett

Some people think that the summertime is not the best time to catch bass - much less big bass. The hotter and higher the sun gets, the better sitting in front of the air conditioner begins to sound. It's during this time of year that too many anglers opt for sipping iced tea instead of fishing.

I fish for a living, so retreating to the climate-controlled house when it gets hot simply is not an option. I have to be able to catch bass in the wind, rain, sleet, snow and the heat. In fact, I really like to catch big fish during the summer. When it's hot and sunny, bass - like a lot of anglers - like to get in under the edge of a shade line and will feed looking out. The fish will suspend under cover, so what I like to do is get up close and pitch right down the edges, letting the bait free fall.

In the heat, I will target both structure and vegetation. In these environments, I like to pitch a Berkley 4-inch Power Flippin' Tube or a Berkley Gripper Football Head Jig. In heavy wood, I might go with a 10-inch Berkley Power Worm with a big half-ounce sinker. The big weight is critical at this time to help sink the bait pretty fast, which can go a long way towards making a sometimes sluggish summer bass excited enough to strike. If the bites slow down, try downsizing your bullet weight and do some "finesse flipping" from close range. By flipping smaller weights, you minimize

Workplace Act Would Allow Workers to Earn Sick Days

by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma
CPA-Majority Whip

The rising cost of health care is a major issue for individuals and families in Assembly District 12. As the cost of gas and food continue to rise, access to preventive health care measures, such as paid sick days, have become increasingly important.

The passage of Proposition F established San Francisco as a leader in paid sick leave legislation. While San Francisco has a law that has been in effect for over a year, there are still nearly 6 million California workers who have zero paid sick days. Accordingly, I am pleased that the Assembly passed AB 2716, the Healthy Families, Healthy Workplace Act in late May. The bill is modeled after the San Francisco ordinance, which was passed with overwhelming support by voters in November 2006.

Enabling workers to earn paid sick leave is sound public policy and contributes to worker productivity. Dr. Vicky Lovell, of the Women's Policy Research Institute recently reported that a law guaranteeing paid sick days would save California close to \$1 billion in reduced turnover costs. The study also found that employers who offer paid sick days report that employees are more productive and happier on the job.

Throughout the state, Californians overwhelmingly support paid sick days as a basic right. A 2007 study conducted by UCLA stated that 88 percent of adults in California support paid sick leave. And the support is bipartisan. Ninety-four percent of Democrats and 76 percent of Republicans agree that there should be a law guaranteeing paid sick days.

No worker should have to choose between going to work sick or staying home to take care of themselves or a loved one, but that is the choice millions of workers in California have to make. Workers don't want to come to work sick, but they do it out of fear of reprisal for not showing up to work, fear of losing their job, and fear of not being able to afford losing a day's pay.

According to the Drum Institute's "Injustice Index" 1 in 3 employees are concerned that taking sick leave would cost them their job. More than two in five California workers have no paid sick days and 46 million employees in the United States are without paid sick leave. Fifty-

eight percent of employees find that they cannot afford to take unpaid sick days when they fall ill. This is unacceptable.

AB 2716 would be the first statewide bill that would allow workers to earn sick days. Business with 10 or fewer employees would provide for 5 sick days (40 hours per calendar year) and businesses with more than 10 employees would provide workers with nine sick

days (72 hours) per calendar year. The Healthy Families, Healthy Workplace Act is currently in the Senate where it passed the Senate Labor Committee and is currently in the Appropriations Committee. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate, and the over 60 organizations including local governments, health professionals, and civil rights organizations that are in support of this bill.

No Clowning Around with This Wager



Principal Vincent Chao of Visitation Valley Elementary School (VVES) recently made good on his wager to dress up like a clown for a day when his students surpassed the school's STAR test scoring of the previous year.

July Classes at Garden for the Environment

Garden for the Environment will offer the following classes in July 2008. All classes will be offered at Garden for the Environment, a half-acre organic demonstration garden in San Francisco on 7th Avenue at Lawton Street.

Since its founding in 1990, the Garden has operated as a demonstration site for small-scale urban ecological food production, organic gardening, compost education and low water-use landscaping.

Please call 415.731.5627 or email info@gardenfortheenvironment.org to pre-register or for more information.

*July 19, Saturday: *Urban Composting* from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Give your summer garden a boost that will guarantee vibrant colors and delicious veggies for the months to follow! Aside from encouraging beneficial soil, compost makes an excellent fertilizer that releases nutrients slowly at a rate which plants can use them.

This fun, hands-on class teaches methods for backyard and worm composting for home and community gardens. Come learn what you can do to improve your garden and prevent organic waste from ending up in the landfill. Free!

*July 26, Saturday: *Summer Pruning for Fruit Trees* from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Summer prune fruit trees? Yes! Fruit trees greatly benefit from specific Summer and Winter pruning techniques. Summer pruning helps ripen and color this year's fruit while setting up strong branches for next year's growth. Join Matthew Sutton of Orchard Keepers, ecological tree care specialists, for this summer workshop. Come learn how to enhance the health and yield of your fruit trees with ecologically appropriate Summer pruning techniques! Garden For the Environment, 7th Ave at Lawton Street, San Francisco. \$10; No one turned away for lack of funds.

HAPPENINGS AT THE VALLEY LIBRARY

by Wen Chin Chen

Valley Branch Librarian

Summer Reading Program

Summer is in full swing. Have you joined Visitation Valley Library's adult summer reading program yet? Don't miss this great opportunity to win prizes or gift certificates to local stores. No registration required. Just write a review and drop it into the raffle box at Visitation Valley Library. Need a book to read? Please check our new book collection. Here are some new titles we recently received:

1. *Nothing to Lose* by Lee Child
2. *Blue Smoke and Murder* by Elizabeth Lowell
3. *Shadow of Power* by Steve Martini
4. *Sexless in the City* by Anna Broadway
5. *Lady Killer* by Lisa Scottoline
6. *Does this Clutter Make My Butt Look Fat?* by Peter Walsh
7. *Where Are You Now?* By Marry Higgins Clark
8. *Women's Health Perfect Body Diet* by Cassandra Forsythe
9. *Ciao Italia Slow and Easy* by Mary Ann Esposito

More books are coming. If you can not find the ones you want on our shelves, please ask the librarians. We also offer free services to get materials from other libraries for you.

The Click

Are you in? The Click is a monthly digital photography club for Teens. Activities include photo scavenger hunts, mystery photos, digital storytelling and much more. Our next two meetings will be held on Tuesday, July 8 and

August 12 at 4 pm at the Portola Library (2450 San Bruno Ave.). Space is limited. To sign up contact, Abby at (415) 355-2848 or aharwood@sfpl.org

Custom T-shirt Design

Don't miss our Custom T-shirt Design program for Teens on Wednesday, July 16th at 3 pm at the Visitation Valley Library (45 Leland Ave). Bring it on and make a one-of-a-kind T-shirt using colorful pens, paints, fabrics, and faux jewels! All materials provided. Space is limited. To sign up contact, Abby at (415) 355-2848 or aharwood@sfpl.org

Teen Summer Reading

There's still time to sign up for Teen Summer Reading! It's easy - just visit the library, sign up with a librarian, and read books, comics, or magazines. Keep track of the hours you spend reading and come back to the library to claim your prizes. When you read 10 or more hours you'll be eligible to win raffle prizes such as a Zune, iPod, or gift certificates to Target and Kamikaze Pop.

Don't know what to read? Check out our the new books in our Teen collection!

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie

The Squad: Killer Spin by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Boy Heaven by Laura Kasischke

Transformers: Escalation by Scott Furman

Train + Train by Hideyuki Kurata

Teen, Inc. by Stefan Petrucha

Traces: Final Lap by Malcom Rose

It Chicks by Tia Williams

Enjoy reading!

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Grapevine on the Web

Read current and past stories from the Visitation Valley Grapevine at www.visvalleygrapevine.com.

Boyd Duckett, from Demopolis, Ala., is the 2007 Bassmaster Classic champion

New Owner Finally For Schlage Lock

From Page 1

Now the Real Work Begins

To create a Redevelopment Area, there is first a lengthy process whereby a Redevelopment Survey Area (in this case, Schlage Lock and the commercial areas on Leland Avenue and Bayshore) is studied by the Redevelopment staff and the planning Department with a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) overseeing the entire process and participating in creating the necessary documents. These documents Redevelopment Plan, Design for Development and an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) are now being reviewed by the CAC and the community.

After two years of monthly CAC public meetings, the deadlines for public comment are coming soon — the EIR public comment is due by July 21 with public meetings on June 26 and July 1. The Planning Commission, Redevelopment Agency and the Board of Supervisors must ratify the aforementioned documents. The deadline for all this is by the end of this year in order to take advantage of tax increment financing for the following year.

Once the EIR is completed, demolition will begin, as soon as a demolition permit can be issued. There will, by the way, be a Demolition/ Wrecking Ball Party to celebrate ending our community's being held hostage by the lack of development at Schlage Lock.

Three hundred days from the issuance of the Permit to Demolish, the clean-up must be completed on the entire site. One hundred eighty days from the same permit issuance the northern area (from Blanken to Visitation Avenue) must be cleaned up, so that construction may begin after that, while remediation continues on the southern parcel where the contamination is heaviest. Meanwhile, the developer and the Redevelopment Agency with the heavy community involvement will create

Plenty of Events at Valley Branch Library

Following are events in June at the Visitation Valley Branch Library, 45 Leland Ave.:

*July 1, 15, 22 and 29, Tuesday: *Mother Goose on the Loose* with stories and songs and rhythms for babies and toddlers at 11:30 a.m.

*July 1, 22 and 29, Tuesday: *Preschool Storytime* for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.

*July 1, Tuesday: *Boswick the Clown*, magic and juggling packaged in comedy for ages 5 and older at 4 p.m.

*July 8, Tuesday: *It's Yoga, Kids!*, yoga for ages 3-5 at 10:30 for ages 3-5, and 11:30 a.m. for ages 3 and under. Please bring a mat or towel.

*July 9, Wednesday: *Preschool Videos* for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.

*July 14, Monday: *Wildlife Association's Bay Area Wild* at 10 a.m. Meet a great horned owl, opossum, red tail hawk and red fox. For ages 5 and older. Groups of five or more, please call to make reservations.

*July 15, Tuesday: *Dana Smith and His Performing Dog, Lacey* perform amazing juggling, acrobatics and circus arts while Lacey "sings" with Dana and leaps over willing volunteers at 10:30 a.m. For ages 3-5. Groups of five and more, please call for reservations.

*July 16, Wednesday: *Design Your Own T-shirt!* Make a one-of-a-kind T-shirt using colorful pens, paints, fabrics and faux jewels from 3 to 4 p.m. All materials provided. Space is limited. To sign up contact, Abby Harwood at (415) 355-2848 or aharwood@sfppl.org.

*July 21, Monday: *Insect Discovery Lab* at 10 a.m. Meet and touch amazing insects from around the globe! For ages 5 and older. Space limited. For groups of five and more, please call to make reservations.

*July 29, Tuesday: *The Puppet Art Theater presents Tommy's Space Bug Adventure*, a puppet show at 3 p.m. for children of all ages. Groups of five and more, please call for reservations.

an Owner Participation Agreement (OPA). Site and architectural design and, finally, construction documents will follow, so that construction might begin in a fairly short period of time — within the next 2-3 years, if all goes well. Community design review will be critical throughout this process.

Remediation Action Plan (RAP)

The Remediation team of Brownfield Partners/MACTEC will be required to create a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) for the site by the end of 2008 (Existing buildings do not have to be demolished to finalize a RAP). This plan will detail the plans for site clean-up. Although there has been monitoring of toxics on site for many years, there is still possible unknown contamination beneath the existing buildings — hence, the necessity to demolish the buildings, as soon as possible, to give a valid evaluation of the site's contamination. Then a Remediation Action Plan will be issued, subject to official and community approval.

The California State Department of Toxic Control (DTSC) has been monitoring the entire legal negotiations leading to the final settlement between UPC and IR and will continue to oversee the actual remediation to insure that Schlage Lock will be safe for residential development. The DTSC will hold public comment meetings regarding the clean-up process. It will be the community's job to follow this closely.

Site remediation will require tearing down all the buildings except the Old Office Building on Blanken (possibly a few more will be saved, but that is yet to be definitively decided), which will unavoidably create noise, dust and general disruption of our lives for 4-5 months beginning, possibly, this fall. There will be information meetings throughout the Valley starting July 12 at the monthly Visitation Valley Planning Alliance.

The remediation team member, Brownfield Partners/MACTEC, and representatives from UPC will give a presentation outlining the plans for demolition and clean up. According to UPC, their goal is to minimize the disruption to the community, as much as possible. They will provide a hotline for complaints, a website, a continuous flow of information through meetings and immediate action, if necessary, to address any safety issues to provide a safe environment for our community.

Jobs will be generated by the demolition, clean-up and construction processes. VVPA has advocated for first source (surrounding neighborhood) hiring since our inception in 1999 and will continue to do so to insure that jobs will be given to those who are properly trained living in the Valley.

Now is the time for residents to pull together to make our community vibrant and whole. It is time for us to advocate for a development that will be a model for green building and design and the most important transportation hub in the southeast sector with the Caltrain/Muni Intermodal Station promising future connections to BART. Schlage Lock will become the first Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) in San Francisco, which VVPA has advocated for since its inception.

In 2001, partnering with SPUR and the 5F Planning Department, VVPA received a community planning grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to work towards that goal.

What You Can Do

We are responsible for creating a beautiful, healthy environment for future residents at the site, as well as ourselves. There will be major changes in our neighborhood with higher density and heights than many of us desire, but there is now real hope for much needed neighborhood serving retail that increased population will bring.

For the next several months, the Visitation Valley Planning Alliance will devote its meetings, when necessary, to the ongoing Schlage Lock planning process. We will meet, as we have for nearly 10 years, on the second Saturday of the month at the Visitation Valley Community Center, 66 Raymond Avenue from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Again: Attend the VVPA meeting on Saturday, July 12: Remediation team member, Brownfield Partners/MACTEC, and representatives from UPC will give a presentation outlining the plans for demolition and clean-up.

Also the second Tuesday of the month, the Redevelopment Citizens Advisory Committee meets at the Recycling Center at 401 Tunnel Ave. from 6 to 8 p.m. Important decisions are being made at these meetings. Your voice is needed more than ever. For further information, please call 468-0639 or e-mail fma6764860@aol.com.

Merchant Safety Walk in Valley



by Nick Wolff

Safety is a concern for business owners across the city of San Francisco, and Visitation Valley is no exception.

With that in mind, VVBOOM was able to procure the services of Ingleside Police Captain Denis O'Leary to conduct the inaugural Merchant Safety Walk through downtown Visitation Valley.

Over the course of two consecutive Friday afternoons in early June, VVBOOM staff along with Captain O'Leary (and Lieutenant Frank Lee on June 6th) walked Leland Avenue and Bayshore Boulevard to directly address merchant safety concerns. Business owners had a chance to speak one on one with the police captain, who received valuable feedback and provided strategies to prevent crime and improve safety along our commercial corridor.

Many business owners expressed concern over common safety issues such as: loitering in front of stores, graffiti and a failure of motorists to properly stop at stop signs along Leland Avenue. While a majority of merchants voiced the need for more foot patrol officers along the Leland-Bayshore corridor, there was also an acknowledgment of increased police foot presence in downtown Visitation Valley. Captain O'Leary was friendly and attentive to local business owners and assured their concerns would be followed up on, particularly those involving 'hot spot' areas of criminal behavior along our commercial corridor. He was also



VVBOOM Director Nick Wolff visited Forty-Niner Cleaners (above) and San-On Herbs during the Merchant Safety Walk in the Valley on June 6.

able to give more immediate safety tips to merchants such as visual merchandising techniques, mirror placement and suggestions on store customer policies.

As always, he instructed business owners to call 911 immediately to report any criminal activity and encouraged communication among merchants to keep the area safer.

June's Merchant Safety Walk was just the first in VVBOOM's initiative to make downtown Vis Valley a fun, safe place to visit and shop. With the cooperation of Ingleside Police and Captain O'Leary, Merchant Safety Walks will occur on a regular monthly basis.

If you are a business owner interested in speaking directly to the police captain next month please contact Nick Wolff at (415) 587-7896, ext. 104 or nwolff@vvboom.org. Don't forget to check out www.vvboom.org for the latest program updates and be sure to support your local businesses here in Visitation Valley.

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO FALL SEMESTER BEGINS AUGUST 18TH



Space is still available in many courses this Fall at City College of San Francisco's Southeast Campus located at 1800 Oakdale Ave. (corner of Phelps St.). Instruction begins August 18th. Credit courses are just \$20 per unit. Noncredit courses are FREE. See sampling below and/or visit www.ccsf.edu

CREDIT COURSE

CRN #	Course Title	Days	Times	Room #
76824	Child, Family and Community	T	9 am-12 noon	TBA
75455	English Comp & Reading	T	6:30-9:30 pm	410

FREE NONCREDIT COURSES

CRN #	Course Title	Days	Times	Room #
83924	ABE-Pre GED Prep	M-Th	8 am-1 pm	313
81453	AC/DC Electronics	Wed	9 am-1 pm	306
82298	ESL Beginning 1-4	M-F	8-10 am	410
83967	GED Prep	M-Th	8 am-1 pm	413
83391	Lingerie Design	Sat	9:30 am-12:30 pm	310
84766	Quick Books: A/P and A/R	Sat	10 am-1 pm	402
84868	Spreadsheets Level I	Sat	9 am-12 noon	408
84881	Upgrade and Optimization	Sat	9 am-12 noon	407
84168	Word Processing Level I	Sat	9 am-12 noon	407

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 415.550.4344 OR VISIT WWW.CCSF.EDU

McLaren Park News and Notes

by Betty Parshall

Razed Play Structures – Will They be Raised?

During the past year the Rec & Park Department removed play structures from three small play areas, one at the group picnic site, and two on the Burroughs Street side of the park. The wooden structures were considered unsafe, and had been treated with creosote, a substance deemed unhealthy in playgrounds. Proposition A bonds, passed by the voters in January, will in part rebuild playground structures around the city. The Neighborhood Parks Council is grading all of the city's park play structures, from grade A to F, to assign priorities for repair or replacement.

However, NPC does not intend to include McLaren's play structures in the survey because they do not exist! Friend Susan Zimmer quickly composed a petition requesting the play areas be included, and has already collected more than 400 signatures, and we are very optimistic that this odd perception by NPC will be adjusted.

Hey, it's just a parking lot –let's put a dump here!

Reviewing the Rec & Park Commission agenda for Thursday, June 19, Friends of McLaren president, Franco Mancini, saw a startling item. The Rec and Park Department has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Housing Authority to allow establishment of a garbage and recycling center on Sunnydale on the vacant lot below the Glen Eagle golf course.

According to the Housing Authority (SFHA), the compactors would reduce the number of garbage pickups, resulting in operational savings. One trash and one recycling container from each of the 767 residential units (1,534 containers) would be transported to the compactors each week. A Her-Q-Les cart trailer designed to carry up to 10 containers would transport the containers. There would be 77 to 154 weekly round trips between the Sunnydale housing and the garbage site, depending on whether two cart trailers are hooked together. The compactors would be emptied and contents delivered to the Sunset Scavengers site on Tunnel Avenue approximately every three days.

While SFHA contacted the girls After School Activity center and various city agencies, community meetings would only be held after the Memo of Understanding was approved by the Rec & Park Commission.

Due to the large number of e-mails to the Commission after this news got out, the agenda item was postponed for an indefinite time. Mancini will contact the Planning Department to inquire why staff there said an Environmental Impact Review was not necessary. While objecting to any non-park use of park land, the Friends of McLaren Park will also proffer suggestions for use of this bare and neglected land, e.g. a nursery for native plants which could include gardening and educational activities for neighborhood people.

Noxious Weed May Become History

Many volunteer hours have been spent at McNabb Lake, pulling out clumps of a water weed which has now been identified as Eurasian water milfoil. A park employee advised that McNabb is the only lake in the city plagued with this choker, which is a problem throughout the state. Now the park department awaits approval by the Environmental Review agency to dose the lake with Sonar, a chemical killer that attacks only milfoil and a couple of other invasive water plants. Marine life is not affected. Water milfoil is used in aquariums, so it may have got its start in McNabb when someone dumped unwanted goldfish into the lake.

Affordable Housing Communities First to Receive Free Wi-Fi

Mayor Gavin Newsom announced June 11 the launch of Wi-Fi 2.0, the "Network of Community Networks" to provide free internet access to all San Franciscans.

The Mayor unveiled the city's Wi-Fi 2.0 plan at Valencia Gardens and the Altamont Hotel. Valencia Gardens and the Altamont will serve as models of what will be replicated at San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) sites throughout the City.

"In the next several months the city will work with neighborhood nonprofits and homegrown Wi-Fi efforts to connect all of San Francisco to our community broadband network," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "I am proud the San Francisco Housing Authority will be one of the first beneficiaries of our efforts to provide universal Wi-Fi."

"We believe the internet is the single most important tool low-income residents of San Francisco can use to increase their quality of life. We know this is only the beginning and will continue to work with the Mayor to make internet free and accessible to all 4,000 residents living in Mission Housing," said Larry Del Carlo, President and CEO of Mission Housing Development Corporation, operator of Valencia Gardens and the Altamont Hotel.

The city is working with Meraki, a San Francisco based company to extend free broadband Wi-Fi to dozens of neighborhoods. Already more than 95,000 San Franciscans have connected to Meraki's "Free the Net." By the end of the year Meraki plans to bring internet access to every neighborhood in the city.

"The Meraki mission is to change the economics of internet access for everyone, including those who live in some of our most underserved communities," said Sanjit Biswas, CEO and founder of Meraki. "For a fraction of the cost of hardwiring these communities, we will bring high-speed internet access to families who have never had access in their home before."

Mayor Newsom also announced June 11 the launch of the TechConnect PC Purchase Program for Working Families. The program, sponsored by Dell Incorporated, Intel Corporation

and Patelco Credit Union, offers eligible low-incomeworking families the opportunity to buy a new discounted Dell computer for a low monthly cost with a loan from Patelco Credit Union.

"We are proud to partner with the City in this new program and support the effort to expand access to technology," said John Mullen, a Vice President in Dell's State and Local Government division.

Latino and Pacific Islander Festival



During a Latino and Pacific Islander Festival at Visitacion Valley Elementary School (VVES), Kindergarten students (top) performed to Des Colores while upper grade VVES students (bottom) performed Pacific Islander dances.

Visitacion Valley History Project

by Betty Parshall

Swimming at Candlestick

Walking my dog alongside the bay at Candlestick, I started thinking about how it was such a popular swimming place long ago. These are excerpts from some of our oral histories, in which this water sport was fondly remembered.

"Mary and her friends would go swimming from a small beach in Candlestick Cove, and she recalled a big rock in the water which they called "Pogey's Rock" (possibly named after a fish called pogey). Mary's husband, Bill Schwartz, was very athletic and is pictured with a group of young men in swimming trunks taken at Johnson's Wharf.

-Mary Leotta Schwartz, born 1906

"My father used to take us to Candlestick. We would never go alone. He loved the water, and we used the beach a lot. At one time there were clams and oysters."

-Justine Baron Marcelli, born 1915

"Pogey Rock at Candlestick Cove was a very popular swimming place, for boys only since they swam in the nude. There would be 30 to 50 boys there sometimes." He remembered a duck blind for hunters in the cove. Bill Schwartz, who married Mary Leotta, would swim out to the duck blind, an admirable feat as it was a long distance from the shore. "Between Pogey Rock and Candlestick Rock was a cave in the side of the hill, and someone lived in it for a time."

-Clarence Wikse, born 1912

(Clarence was wrong about the "boys only" bit, see above!)

In the 1940s, Jackie Bauman and her sister Eleanor loved to go swimming at the Cove, accompanied by their Dad. But on the infrequent days when the wind was blowing strongly from the south, they made sure to stay in the northern area of the water, since there was a sewer pipe dumping into the south end. Many years later, Eleanor, dying of cancer, asked that her ashes be scattered off the Cove. That was done, and there is now a picnic table in the park in her memory.

(When I first went walking with my husband-to-be, Ron Parshall, he once suggested we go down to a point just above the water at the south end for the romantic vista of the sewer rats jumping in and out of the pipe. bp)

One very romantic story was shared. "Four of us girls were at the beach to eat lunch and sit by the water, and a bottle washed up on the shore. So we thought it would be fun to put a note in the bottle... we wrote our names and what we were like and sent it away in the bottle. "And I forgot about it, it must have been over a year, and this guy phoned me and said he'd found the bottle, it was way over in Alameda. He had a boat, nice guy, and we made a date and went to the movies. Then he was getting a new sailboat and wanted me to go sailing, but I didn't because my mother wouldn't like it and I was never crazy about sailboats, and then the years went by. And then I got married, and one day the phone rang and my mother answered, he asked for me and my mother told him I was married, so that was that. And I often think... well, that was the story of the bottle."

-Anna Stuart Johnson, born 1914

Have a favorite experience at Candlestick you would like to share? Send a story to Betty Parshall, bparshal@flash.net

S.F. Board of Supervisors Passes Solar Rebate Program

The Board of Supervisors on June 10 passed legislation to implement a 10-year solar rebate program for local residents, businesses and non-profits. It is the first solar rebate of its kind and size made available by a city in the country and will create the nation's largest municipal solar program.

"This rebate program further establishes San Francisco as America's solar energy leader and symbolizes the commitment of the City to make affordable solar power available to those who want it," said Mayor Newsom. "This program will ensure San Francisco's ongoing leadership for providing the opportunity to thousands of residents to economically place solar on their rooftops."

The incentive program provides solar rebates to local residents rang-

ing from \$3,000-\$6,000. It provides up to \$10,000 for non-profits and businesses that install solar. It also provides up to \$30,000 for non-profit affordable housing.

These rebates incentivize local building owners and leverage about 80 percent of the average solar installation cost from non-city sources (state, federal and the owner's investment), promoting the installation of significant new amounts of solar with fairly limited resources. The highest residential incentive is reserved for residents or businesses who use an installer that hires graduates of the City's workforce development program.

"Less than 1,000 rooftops in San Francisco have solar installed," said legislative co-sponsor and champion Supervisor Duffy. "Not only will this

program significantly expand solar in the City, but it will also provide much-needed meaningful employment to the workers being trained to join the new green economy."

Convened by Assessor-Recorder Ting, the San Francisco Solar Taskforce met for 12 months and crafted the program. The Taskforce concluded that an inclusive solar rebate program open to all local rooftops was the single most effective way to greatly increase solar in San Francisco.

The program enjoys the strong support of the full range of environmental groups and environmental justice advocates, including the Sierra Club, Vote Solar, the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, SPUR, Literacy for Environmental Justice, and the Neighborhood Parks Council, among others.

Youth Help Bayview Seniors and Work at S.F. Food Bank

by Anh Le

The morning sun was shining bright in the Bayview on June 18, as a group of young people from Northern California arrived to volunteer their time to help the community.

The youths from Meadow Valley Community Church in Quincy, who were accompanied by Curt Beeson, their youth minister, came to San Francisco to help seniors in the Bayview clean up their backyards, and to work at the San Francisco Food Bank.

As the young people cleaned the seniors' backyards, they sang songs and hymns. Among the volunteers were Molly Grace Adkins and her sister Emily Adkins, whose father serves as the minister at Meadow Valley Community Church. The

youngest volunteer, Tori Beeson and her sister Bailey Beeson, accompanied their father Curt Beeson.

Other youth volunteers included Alex Lemnah, Emmanuel Lemnah, D.J. Amos, and Henry Kroeker.

The young people cleaned the backyards of Marge, a Chinese American, and Beverly, an African American neighbor. Each volunteer introduced herself or himself to the seniors.

The volunteers worked hard and in unison. They enjoyed themselves, and laughed. They had a chance to listen to what the seniors shared with them. The young people and their youth minister prayed together with the seniors at the end of the work project.

There was much laughter between the young people and the seniors.

After completing their morning work project in the Bayview, the young people and their youth minister headed for the San Francisco Food Bank to do more work. But before the youths left, there were many hugs exchanged and words of appreciation expressed by each young person and the seniors.

The young people's volunteer work was arranged as a collaboration between the Network for Elders, an organization which serves seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco, and the Crossroad program.

Information, Assistance, and Referral for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities are available at the following Resource Centers operated by Network for Elders: Visitacion Valley / Excelsior / Portola (415) 330-1789, Bayview / Hunters Point (415) 401-7200, OMI / Francis Wood / Miraloma Park (415) 587-7500

EarthTalk

Rising Sea Levels?

Dear EarthTalk: Recent NASA photos showed the opening of the Northwest Passage and that a third of the Arctic's sea ice has melted in recent years. Are sea levels already starting to rise accordingly, and if so what effects is this having? - Dudley Robinson, Ireland

Researchers were astounded when, in the fall of 2007, they discovered that the year-round ice pack in the Arctic Ocean had lost some 20 percent of its mass in just two years, setting a new record low since satellite imagery began documenting the terrain in 1978. Without action to stave off climate change, some scientists believe that, at that rate, all of the year-round ice in the Arctic could be gone by as early as 2030.

This massive reduction has allowed an ice-free shipping lane to open through the fabled Northwest Passage along northern Canada, Alaska and Greenland. While the shipping industry—which now has easy northern access between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans—may be cheering this “natural” development, scientists worry about the impact of the resulting rise in sea levels around the world.

With about a third of the world's population—and 25 percent of Americans—living within 300 feet of an ocean coastline, sea level rise is a big deal. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, made up of leading climate scientists, sea levels have risen some 3.1 millimeters per year since 1993.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reports that low-lying island nations, especially in equatorial regions, have been hardest hit by this phenomenon, and some are threatened with total disappearance. Rising seas have already swallowed up two uninhabited islands in the Central Pacific. On Samoa, thousands of residents have moved to higher ground as shorelines have retreated by as much as 160 feet. And islanders on Tuvalu are scrambling to find new homes as salt water intrusion has made their groundwater undrinkable while increasingly strong hurricanes and ocean swells have devastated shoreline structures.

WWF says that rising seas throughout tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world have inundated coastal ecosystems, decimating local plant and wildlife populations. In Bangladesh and Thailand, coastal mangrove forests—important buffers against storms and tidal waves—are giving way to ocean water.

Unfortunately, even if we curb global warming emissions today, these problems are likely to get worse before they get better. According to marine geophysicist Robin Bell of Columbia University's Earth Institute, sea levels rise by about 1/16” for every 150 cubic miles of ice that melts off one of the poles.

“That may not sound like a lot, but consider the volume of ice now locked up in the planet's three greatest ice sheets,” she writes in a recent issue of *Scientific American*. “If the West Antarctic ice sheet were to disappear, sea level would rise almost 19 feet; the ice in the Greenland ice sheet could add 24 feet to that; and the East Antarctic ice sheet could add yet another 170 feet to the level of the world's oceans: more than 213 feet in all.” Bell underscores the severity of the situation by pointing out that the 150-foot tall Statue of Liberty could be completely submerged within a matter of decades.

Dear EarthTalk: What's available now in lawnmowers that are easier on the environment? My yard is too big for one of those “reel” mowers, and I'm no longer a spring chicken, so I have to buy something that runs on more than human power. What's out there? -Joel Klein, Albany, NY

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), traditional gas-powered lawnmowers are a public nuisance to say the least. Using one of them for an hour generates as many volatile organic compounds—dangerous airborne pollutants known to exacerbate human respiratory and cardiovascular problems—as driving a typical car for 350 miles. The EPA estimates that, with some 54 million Americans mowing their lawns on a weekly basis, gas lawnmower emissions account for as much as five percent of the nation's total air pollution. Beyond that, homeowners spill some 17 million gallons of gasoline every year just refueling their lawnmowers.

So what's a green-minded property owner to do about keeping the grass down? Go electric, of course!

Electric mowers, which either plug into a wall outlet via a long cord or run on batteries charged up from the grid, create no exhaust emissions and run much cleaner than their gas-powered counterparts. They also need less maintenance, with no spark plugs or belts to worry about, and are easier to use, as they tend to be smaller and come with push-button starters. The icing on the cake might be the fact that electric mowers are cheaper to run, using about as much electricity as an ordinary toaster. Most electric mower owners spend about \$5 a year on electricity to keep their grass trimmed just right. The non-profit Electric Power Research Institute reports that replacing half

of the 1.3 million or so gas mowers in the U.S. with electric models would save the equivalent amount of emissions of taking two million cars off the road.

But going electric has some minor trade-offs. Electric mowers tend to cost up to \$150 more than their gas-powered counterparts, and the plug-in varieties can only go 100 feet from the closest outlet without an extension cord. And the cordless models last only 30-60 minutes on a charge, depending on battery size and type, though that's

plenty sufficient for the average lawn (just remember to re-charge it in time for the next mow).

And, of course, just because electric mowers don't consume fossil fuels or spew emissions directly doesn't mean they are totally green-friendly. Most people derive their household electricity from coal-fired power plants, the dirtiest of all energy sources. Of course, running an electric mower on electricity generated from clean and renewable sources (solar, wind or hydro power) would be the green-

California Gas Prices Remain Highest in the Country

Remember the anticipation for \$4 a gallon gas? The new milestone appears to be \$4.50, according to the latest report from AAA of Northern California.

The record-setting pace of gas prices in California continues to spiral upward, setting new records daily, according to a June 10 report from AAA of Northern California, which tracks fuel costs as a service to consumers.

The statewide average cost for a gallon of regular gasoline was a record high of \$4.47, a 53-cent increase from the last AAA gas price report on May 13.

“There are several reasons for the continued record breaking pace of gasoline prices,” said Michael Geeser, AAA of Northern California spokesperson. “These include the low value of the U.S. dollar compared with international currencies, the growing demand for gasoline and oil in Asia, and the heavy trading of oil and other

commodities in the market.”

Crude oil continues to drive retail fuel prices. The price of crude fell from \$135 a barrel, set on May 22 with news of decreasing numbers of Memorial Day travelers as well as lower gasoline consumption. Those reports, in addition to the study by the Commodities Future Trading Commission, caused traders to wonder if oil was becoming highly over priced.

But the commodity market is volatile, especially oil. Even though there was a decrease in demand, the reported threat by Israel to attack Iran led oil prices to jump by almost \$11 on June 6, the biggest one-day gain ever in dollar terms for the price of oil. The rule of thumb in the crude oil - gasoline relationship is for every dollar a barrel of crude oil goes up, gasoline usually follows with an increase of 2.5 cents a gallon.

The most expensive average gas price in the California communities

est of all possibilities, and those days may be upon us soon.

For those ready to take the electric mower plunge, the Greener Choices website, a project of Consumer Reports, gives high marks to Black & Decker's corded (\$230) and cordless (\$400) models for their efficiency, reliability and ease-of-use. Corded models from Worx and Homelite (both around \$200) also fared well, along with cordless offerings from Craftsman, Homelite, Remington and Neuton (\$300-450).

where AAA monitors fuel costs was in Tahoe City and Yreka, where unleaded gas sold for \$4.60 a gallon, a 50-cent increase from last month's report. The lowest price among Northern California cities tracked by AAA is in Pleasanton, where gas costs an average of \$4.36 per gallon.

Throughout Northern California, the average price on June 10 was \$4.46, up 50 cents since the last AAA gas price report. In the Bay Area, the average price was \$4.45, an increase of 43 cents from last month.

The nationwide average price of self-serve regular gasoline was \$4.04, a 31-cent increase from last month's report.

The least expensive gasoline in the country was found in Casper, Wyoming, where the average price of gas sold for \$3.79. The highest average price in the nation was in Tahoe City and Yreka, California where the price was \$4.60.

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Driving Me Mad

by Jacquelyn Mitchard

We call him Crash Craddock, which is funny except not.

When we see our 21-year-old son, Dan, head down our long road in yet another airbag-equipped-but-rust-over silver beater, someone invariably jokes, "That'll be dinged by sundown." But this is what is called kidding-on-the-square. Dan's record for smashing up the rocker panel after taking ownership is ... three hours.

This kids has four damaged cars to his discredit. He wrecked the first while driving with his two younger cousins and his little sister. For that collision, he was not ticketed, and truly it was not his fault. He swerved to avoid, but still rear-ended, a woman who slammed on her brakes in front of him in a serpentine line of cars headed downtown for fireworks.

What makes me wake up trembling still, is that my brother's son, my nephew, then only 14 years old, was not wearing a seatbelt.

He wasn't ticketed for the second car accident and that car was wrecked. Truly, that was not entirely his fault, either. Cornering at a reasonable speed, he hit black ice and hit a telephone pole back-end-first. On the side without the gas tank. A block from home. That was simple mercy on the part of the universe.

The last time, however, he was reaching for his phone. It had slipped off the seat onto the floor.

Writing my most recent novel, *All We Know of Heaven*, was the most emotionally wrenching experience I've had as a writer - because I am first, a mother. Yes, twelve years ago I wrote about every parent's worst nightmare, the abduction of a young child. But stranger abduction - that is, a kidnapping that isn't part of a family dispute in which, in most cases, the child is not in danger - accounts for less than 1 percent of all such disappearances.

The girls in my latest book crashed their car only a few miles from the street where they grew up together. They were good students, pretty responsible kids and in love with life. On the night one died and the other was hideously injured, they were

looking forward to a trip to Disney World over Christmas break. They couldn't wait to go on living. And yet, one's life was torn away in a second, and the other's irreparably and painfully altered, forever.

What I was writing about wasn't an isolated incident - like the kidnapping in *The Deep End* of the Ocean.

It was something that happens to ten American kids every day. It ought to have parents in a constant state of hysteria and yet because driving is endemic not just to our car culture but to our youth, we live with it almost in a state of denial that is patently absurd.

"Think of what we did when we were kids," my friends tell me, by way of comfort. And yet, it's no comfort.

You know the facts: In our country, motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for youths age 16-19.

They remain a huge factor in fatalities up through age 24.

You know that a recent National Young Driver's Survey indicated that it was inexperience and distraction, not so-called joy riding or deliberate risk-taking behavior (the stuff of those old Beach Boys songs), that cause about ten American teenagers a day to die in car wrecks.

Kids' cars today are rolling entertainment centers - boudoirs, coffee shops, eateries. There is so much more going on in the front seat of my sons' cars than was ever even going on in the back seat of mine thirty years ago that I'm surprised they're not all dead already.

Young drivers have reported seeing 9 out of ten of their peers talking on a cell phone or even text-messaging while driving - and added that many seemed emotionally upset.

So far as I can tell, my older sons are pretty generally upset - in the most inclusive sense of the word. They're caught up in the huge emotional topography of youth, swinging between elation and despair, boredom and anticipation of one kind or another pretty much all the time.

And our older sons have four younger siblings. The likelihood of their being injured in a crash with their brothers is three times what it would be in a car driven by an adult.

Maybe it would surprise you to learn, moreover, that Crash Craddock is not the worst driver in our family.

Our younger son, 18, is much more emotional, has far less patience, is more likely to ignore the speed limit and much, much more likely to be checking his text messages while changing a disc in his CD player.

He has never had even a fender bender. And yet, he is a lethal weapon.

So why do we allow our sons to

drive at all?

They are much better drivers than most of their peers. None of them has, except on one occasion, driven drunk: their friends do routinely. According to the National Association of Family Physicians, in our country 20 to 40 percent of youth auto fatalities involve some kind of alcohol impairment. But in our state - where there is a long tradition of alcohol abuse as part of every event from a softball game to a baptism, where parents routinely offer their underage kids alcohol, where our son (a popular senior) refused a traditional graduation party because he knew nothing could prevent his friends from drinking - I'm sure it's much higher than the national norm.

They drive because we have seven kids and simply can't be five places at once. Buses simply do not go to the places the older ones need to go for college.

Does their need for education overwhelm our desire to see them live to adulthood? Not in the least. But they argue persuasively that they have to learn to set their own limits, make their own mistakes.

We think this argument is thin at best.

More than once, we've seriously considered the kind of black-box technology that would allow us to be able to get a read on how fast our children are driving, where they are and when. We even ordered such a device for \$300 and sent it back. It was construed to immediately call the police if our sons went over a certain speed limit and realistically, we wondered if we could afford the economic and emotional stress. Alex Koroknay-Palicz, director of the National Youth Rights Association, argues that big-fathering your kids' driving habits can keep them from learning to set their own boundaries. We should "instill inner fortitude" and foster "independence" instead of spying on our children.

That's groovy, Alex.

We hope we get a chance to do that before they die.

If I had five bucks for every earnest family meeting my boys have walked away from promising to be more careful with the cars, I would be able to buy whatever publication you're reading this in. In fact, though, they were more careful drivers at 16 than they are now - more in awe of the huge machines they were entrusted to pilot.

Three, four, five years later, they feel like old masters. And merry pranksters.

We don't think we spawned these kids' habits.

We think reality TV and simple reality did that.

We think that the kind of relaxed mores that permits them to breezily tell us things we wouldn't have ad-

mitted to our own parents if stretched on a rack (and that makes us glad, in some perverse way, that they trust us enough to tell us) is to blame.

Neither of us is a bad driver.

I haven't had a ticket in five years, and that was for going 35 in a 25, about two hundred yards past the sign where the speed limit abruptly drops from the rural highway to the town limits - a great place for a police officer to lurk. My previous speeding violation was - hey! - when I was about 21, moving from Illinois to Wisconsin. I was excited about a new job and seeing old friends and the state police officer gave me a warning and made me promise that I was leaving Illinois forever. My husband got his last ticket nine years ago. We were lost, trying to find the airport to go to Texas and adopt our baby daughter.

I try not to talk on a hand-held telephone while driving - although I was guilty of that when cell phones were something new. I've curbed my consumption of coffee to a sip at stop signs to make a better example for the younger kids. And never, not once (although as a child of alcoholics this isn't entirely a fair bar for me to set) taken a drink and gotten behind the wheel.

In truth, I want my sons to read *All We Know of Heaven* not only because I think it's a book worth reading. I want them to experience the agony of the Flannery and O'Malley parents, their siblings and friends.

I want to scare them - not foster their courage, which, in this situation, I think is false courage.

Failing that, I want them to ride public transportation until they outgrow auto-psychotic behavior.

As we enter this season of graduation mayhem, I think of the daughter of an acquaintance of mine, a girl prized by all she knew for her wisdom and good sense, who never did drugs or took a drink. The week before she was to leave high school she was at the wheel for one goofy, innocent ride, singing with four friends ... and, like Maureen and Bridget, crossed the line for only a second.

Not one of the five ever came home.

This is my worst nightmare.

All We Know of Heaven is about much more than teenagers driving. It's about the redemptive power of family and the courage to survive tragedy, and love in its immense and many forms. But it's also a book to make kids think twice and parents think many times.

Even the parent who wrote it down.

Jacquelyn Mitchard is a bestselling novelist whose latest book is "All We Know of Heaven" (HarperTeen). Visit her online at <http://www.jacquelynmitchard.com/>.

Book Review

Fascinating Stories Behind Olympic Timing

Just in time for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Alex Cheng shares the adventures of his eight years with an Olympic and sports timing company in his new book, *Splitting the Second: My Wacky Business in Olympic and Sports Timing* (AuthorHouse, \$14.95).

Cheng reveals behind-the-scenes stories and shenanigans at such major events as the Montreal and Lake Placid Olympics, Pan Am Games and Commonwealth Games. He tells why rodeo barrel racing and sailboat racing are similar, how runners are different from swimmers and skiers, and how he introduced starting horns to U.S. competitive swimming.

Cheng entertains the reader with fascinating stories of a company that went into panic mode every weekend with dozens of championship events from Grand Prix to Firemen's Musters. He shares stories about his unprecedented business of high level sports timing. There are many observations behind the theater of TV sports that the public does not see. Alex tells human stories of commitment and spirit displayed by the lowest ranked competitors where there is no TV coverage. Included in the book are many trivia items not commonly known, such as an explanation of the precision timing needed in pigeon racing.

Alex Cheng yearned to start a company marketing unusual technologies and landed the North American rights to Olympic caliber timing systems made by the Electronics Division of Omega, the Swiss watch company. Helping his Swiss colleagues adapt to the sloppy nature of American sports is one funny chapter in this unusual book for sports fans. With extraordinary sports timers and scoreboards ranging from \$10,000 to \$500,000 and finding no established distribution channels for such products, he founded and operated Seagull, Inc. with innovative strategies both within and outside his company. The result was eight years of "fun, stress and lots of fascinating stories." This book includes random photos taken by the author.

Cheng grew up in California and participated in many sports but never as a ranked competitor like those he met during his Seagull days. He is an avid snowboarder, competed once in the Canadian Nationals in curling and raced sailboats in San Francisco Bay for over 20 years. He earned a BS from UCLA and an MBA from Stanford University and roams Silicon Valley as an independent marketing strategist for young companies with unique or leading edge technologies.

Cooking Corner

Raisin Bread French Toast

¾ cup egg substitute or 3 eggs; 1/3 cup skim milk; 1 teaspoon vanilla; 2 tablespoons powdered sugar; 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg; 2 cups whole-grain wheat and barley cereal or coarsely crushed bran flakes; 8 slices Sun-Maid Raisin Bread; powdered sugar for topping, optional.

Mix egg substitute, milk, vanilla, powdered sugar and nutmeg in pie plate. Place cereal in another pie plate.

Spray 12-inch nonstick skillet generously with cooking spray. Heat over medium heat.

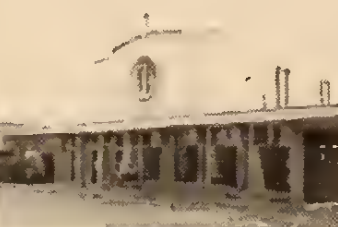
Dip both sides of 4 slices of raisin bread in egg mixture, then in cereal. Cook 2 to 3 minutes or until golden brown, turning once.

Repeat with remaining bread, egg mixture and cereal, spraying skillet each time.

Serve topped with powdered sugar, if desired. Makes 4 servings. **NAPS**

Crossword Puzzle Solution

RAH	PASS	HSIA
OBO	EVOE	ITAL
MRU	EEOC	PROA
PIROL	TAPA	
	MEDI	LOIRE
VEDA	ANIL	GEL
ICI	GIDDY	HEU
OHS	OLIO	ITLL
LOHAN	OLPE	
	OBED	ARRAN
TANA	ABAS	OCA
BLOC	CESS	AHS
SIERA	ELIBE	DEA



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- 會在允許的時間內給你答案
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Visitacion Valley
Police Report

Police Cases

*On May 16 at 1:26 a.m. on the 600 blk of Sunnysdale Avenue, the Bayview Cease Fire Team, working in conjunction with Oakland Police Department, detained a suspect wanted for a series of armed robberies in San Francisco and Oakland. Officers from Bayview and Ingleside Stations served an arrest and search warrant on the suspect's residence in San Francisco. Oakland Police responded and took custody of the suspect and the SFPD Robbery Detail assumed responsibility for the investigation.

*On May 19 at 1:50 a.m. on the 2200 block of Bayshore Boulevard, a man entered a convenience store and brought a beer to the front counter. The clerk rang up the sale and the man displayed a handgun tucked into his waistband. He demanded the store's money and the clerk gave it to him. He fled in a beige four-door car with the money and the beer.

*On May 20 at 2:05 p.m. at Sunnysdale Avenue and Schwerin Street, officers questioned a 25 year-old Visitacion Valley man who was behaving suspiciously. He was carrying a loaded pistol in his pocket. The gun had been reported stolen, too. An officer the Gang Task Force took over the case. The man was booked at Mission Station.

*On May 21 at 9:35 p.m. on the 100 block of Desmond Street, a man and a woman were unloading items from his car when two robbers approached them, brandished a handgun and demanded money. The couple surrendered a wallet and a purse. The suspects fled on foot.

*On May 22 at 1:15a.m. on the 2000 block of San Bruno Avenue, officers responded to the scene regarding a burglary involving a known suspect. Officers found the suspect on San Bruno Avenue and detained her pending further investigation. After confirmation of a warrant and charges for the burglary, the suspect was placed under arrest and transported directly to the county jail for booking.

*On May 24 at 12:15 a.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, a 45 year-old Oakland man reported that six men surrounded him as he walked to his parked car. One man produced a handgun and the victim was robbed of his cash and jewelry. At 1:25 p.m. on the first block of Santos Street, a woman approached officers to report that her husband had attacked her. They searched for the man and learned that he was dining at a res-

Grapevine Classified

WVCC BOARD MEETINGS: Visitacion Valley Community Center (WVCC) regular monthly Board meetings, held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., except December and May, are open to the public. Board members are selected by the members of the community center with dues currently paid, at the Annual Membership meeting held the 3rd Saturday in May each year. Any vacancies that occur on the Board due to uncompleted 3-year terms of membership are filled by appointment of the remaining Board members. At least 75% of our Board members must reside in Visitacion Valley. Persons interested in Board membership are encouraged to send a letter of interest to: Board of Directors Development Committee, Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. Please let the Board know what you could contribute that will enhance and improve our organization for better service to our community. You will be contacted and your letter will be submitted to the Board for consideration at either the next Annual election or of any available open positions that might occur within the coming year.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for WVCC After School Program to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitacion Valley area. Interested persons contact Dee Smith, WVCC After School coordinator: (415) 585-2059

GRAPEVINE DISPLAY ADVERTISING: new limited-time rates: Full Page \$60; 1/2 Page \$33.75; 1/4 Page \$18.75; 1/8 Page \$10; 1/12 Page \$8; 1/16 Page \$6. Generous discount for three or more insertions. Call (415) 467-9300 for more details.

Classified: 20 words for \$1. Extraline 50 cents. Ad and payment should be received by 15th of prior month at Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134.

taurant on Geneva Avenue. Officers found the man and arrested him. At 7:15 p.m. on the 200 block of Peabody St. Court Order Service Officers Hampton located the suspect in an aggravated assault that had occurred in the Crocker Amazon neighborhood the day before. He served the man with a court order that directed no contact with the victim of the assault. Inspector Nevin, General Work Detail, was contacted and he directed Officer Hampton to identify the man for a follow up investigation.

*On May 27 at 10:45 a.m. on the first block of Santos Street, a police sergeant and posse investigated a lock-out in the Sunnysdale Housing Development. They located a domestic violence victim and her children. They determined that the woman's husband was endangering her and so brought the family to a women's shelter. At 1 p.m. on San Bruno Avenue at Felton Street, an officer spoke to a victim who told the officer that the suspect, posing as a Circuit City employee, offered to sell him flat screen televisions and laptops, new in the box, for much less than their actual value. The victim agreed to the purchase and told the suspect that he needed get money from the bank to pay for the items. When the victim produced the money, the suspect took it and fled, leaving the boxes with the victim. The victim opened the boxes and found they were filled with paper and wood. Officers searched the area for the suspect, to no avail.

*On May 28 at 3:30 p.m., officers responded to the 2700 block of San Bruno Avenue regarding a fight. The victim told officers that he had been beat up by an unknown person who stole his iPod. At 6:50 p.m. at Sunnysdale Avenue and Hahn Street, an officer saw a group of juveniles enter a Muni bus and watched as they surrounded a passenger, a 15 year-old Outer Mission District resident. One of the group rifled the passenger's pockets. The officer and posse stopped the robbery and arrested a 13 year-old Visitacion Valley male for robbery. He was brought to a juvenile probation officer. At 7:25 p.m. officers responded to the corner of Silver and Holyoke streets regarding a victim that was robbed of his ipod by a suspect. The victim was knocked to the ground, at which point he began to fight off the suspect. The suspect ran down the street. The victim sustained a scraped left hand and leg during the fight.

*On May 29 at 10:15 a.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers went to a residence to serve a court order in a domestic violence case. They found the perpetrator with the victim. A 43 year-old Bayview District man was arrested for making threats. At 3:15 p.m. on Garrison Avenue and Rey Street, an officer saw a 23 year-old Bayview District man who was subject to a court order en-

joining him from frequenting Visitacion Valley. The man was arrested without incident.

*On June 2 at 5:50 a.m. on the 1900 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, residents reported that a suspect had removed a living room window, entered the apartment, and tipped over a couch between 1:30 and 5:45 a.m. No loss was reported. At 1:45 p.m. on the 1800 Sunnysdale Avenue, plain clothes officers found two men covertly watching uniformed officers during a traffic stop. They questioned the two men and searched them. One of the men, a 19 year-old Bayview District resident, was arrested for possessing narcotics (Ecstasy).

*On June 3 at 6:10 a.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, an officer and posse investigated a 911 call of a disturbance. She found a woman with a knife arguing with a man. Both parties were arrested after an investigation. A 48 year-old Visitacion Valley man was charged with grand theft and the woman, a 49 year-old Visitacion Valley resident, was charged with aggravated assault. At 9:15 a.m., along Somerset Street, a 36 year-old Visitacion Valley woman had her purse taken from her shoulder by a thief on a bicycle. At 10:30 a.m. on the 1200 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, witnesses reported multiple shots fired at a group of men. Officers found no victims and 13 shell casings. The Gang Task Force took over the investigation. At 4 p.m. on the 1700 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, plain clothes officers were told that the Fairfield Police Department was seeking an 18 year-old man who frequented the Sunnysdale Housing Development. The officers found the man and arrested him after a brief foot pursuit. They charged the man for possessing narcotics and served the Solano County warrant. A detective from the Fairfield Police Department responded to Ingleside Station and questioned the man.

*On June 4 at 8:15 p.m. along the 100 block of Leland Avenue, plain clothes officers questioned a motorist parked illegally and arrested the 26 year-old Excelsior District man for possession of narcotics and marijuana for sale. At 8:40 p.m. around Bayshore Boulevard and Geneva Avenue, plain clothes officers questioned a pedestrian and arrested the 21 year-old San Francisco man for a Santa Clara County misdemeanor warrant.

*On June 5 at 3:30 a.m., an officer who was in the area of San Bruno Avenue and Dwight Street was approached by a victim who told him that he was robbed by an unknown suspect while walking. The victim told the officer that the suspect walked in front of him, demanded money and reached into his pocket, taking his wallet. The victim was not harmed during the incident. The suspects left the area on foot after the incident. No arrest was made. At 4:45 p.m. on the 1900 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, an officer saw a

33 year-old Visitacion Valley man who was wanted on a local felony narcotics warrant. The man was taken into custody and booked at the County Jail.

*On June 6 at 10:10 a.m., officers responded to the area of Bayshore Boulevard regarding a robbery. Officers spoke with a victim, who told them that a suspect had jumped out of the bushes and robbed them of money and a bicycle. The victim also stated that the suspect punched him in the face. Officers searched the area and found the suspect under the overpass. The suspect was taken into custody without incident. The victim stated that he was not seriously injured and that he would get his own medical attention if needed. At 11 a.m. on Velasco Avenue at Castillo Street, a 73 year-old Visitacion Valley woman reported that two teenagers pulled her purse from her shoulder, knocking the victim down. The thieves took the purse. At 12:15 p.m. along the first block of Blythdale Avenue, an officer questioned a motorist about double parking. The 60 year-old driver, a Diamond Heights resident, was wanted in Yolo County on a felony narcotics warrant. The man was booked at Mission Station.

*On June 8 at 6:50 a.m. on the 100 block of Arleta Avenue, officers saw a wanted Visitacion Valley man and arrested the 48 year-old on a local sex crimes warrant. At 5:50 p.m. on the 400 block of Argonaut Avenue, a Gang Task Force officer found a man hiding in a neighbor's yard. The 19 year-old Antioch man admitted that he was wanted in San Francisco on two local warrants. He was arrested and booked at Mission Station. At 6:05 p.m. around Sunnysdale Avenue and Hahn Street, a Gang Task Force officer and posse heard shots fired in the neighborhood and saw a car being driven recklessly. They found an 18 year-old Antioch man with two gunshot wounds. They also found a loaded handgun inside the man's car. The shooting victim was treated at San Francisco General Hospital and booked into the County Jail on weapons charges.

*On June 9 at 3:19 a.m., officers responded to the 400 block of Girard Street regarding a robbery. Officers spoke with two victims who stated that they had gotten out of their vehicle, near their house, when two suspects armed with a black gun, approached them. The suspect put the gun to one of the victim's head and demanded money. The suspects robbed the victims and then got in a car and drove away. Officers searched the area to no avail. At 3:40 p.m. near Cambridge and Felton streets, officers stopped a 32 year-old Portola District man for reckless driving and arrested him on three warrants.

*On June 10 at 12:05 p.m., officers responded to the intersection of Somerset and Mansell streets regarding a shooting. Officers found the vic-

tim lying face down, bleeding from the back area. Officers rendered aid and called for an ambulance. The victim died as a result of his injury. SFPD homicide inspectors responded and took over the investigation.

*On June 11 at 12:25 a.m., on the first block of Blythdale Avenue, a 34 year-old Visitacion Valley man reported that he was fired upon by an unknown suspect. The assault occurred as the victim stood behind his home, listening to music and drinking a beer. The shots missed.

*On June 12 at 10:03 a.m. on the 2500 Block of San Bruno Avenue, a local man was arrested after stealing soda from an area store. The man also had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. At 2:40 p.m. on the 1700 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, a social worker caller the police with the name and location of a 17 year-old Daly City girl wanted on two warrants issued by San Francisco's Juvenile Court. A police sergeant and posse located the girl inside her grandparents' home and served the warrants. She was brought to the Children's Protective Service. At 4:45 p.m. near Brussels and Mansell streets, a 12 year-old Portola District girl reported that another girl cursed her and took her cell phone while they rode a Muni bus together. The thief fled with other teenage girls.

*On June 13 at 12:30 a.m. on the 1900 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, a resident reported that her 15 year-old daughter and boyfriend had been fired upon by suspects in a large brown car. At 10:55 p.m. on the first block of Blythdale Avenue, officers learned of a shooting in a basketball court and found a 15 year-old Antioch resident with a gun shot wound to his leg.

*On June 14 at 5:20 p.m. near the corner of Sunnysdale Avenue and Sawyer Street, an officer and posse heard shots fired and gave chase to a 16 year-old Visitacion Valley male who was running from them with a gun in his hand. A motorcycle officer saw the boy throw the gun to a nearby rooftop before he arrested the teen. A search of the area did not produce that gun, but it did reveal another handgun hidden nearby beneath shrubbery. The teen was booked at the Juvenile Justice Center on weapons and gang charges. At 6:30 pm on the 2400 block of Bayshore Boulevard, an officer investigated a fight and took custody of a 19 year-old Mission District woman for punching a relative's neighbor in the face. At 9:15 p.m. on the 300 block of Leland Avenue, an officer investigated a disturbance and arrested a 26 year-old Bay Point woman who had struck her child while arguing with the four year-old's father.

*On June 15 at 2:10 p.m. on the 100 block of Britton Street, a police sergeant and posse investigated a call reporting shots fired and recovered an assault rifle inside a car stolen from Oakland.

See Next Page


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Police Cases

*On June 16 at 8:10 a.m., at the corner of Raymond Avenue and Elliot Street, a witness saw a blue truck towing a trailer by its safety chains on Bayshore Boulevard. He followed the truck because he thought it was odd that the trailer was not attached to a tow hitch. The trailer struck a parked car on Raymond Avenue and the truck's occupants disengaged the trailer and abandoned it. Another witness found the truck on fire at London Street and Italy Avenue. An officer investigated the collision and found that the trailer had been taken in a commercial burglary in Brisbane. another officer investigated the arson and found that the truck had been stolen in Millbrae. SFPD's Hit and Run Detail and Arson Detail took over the case. A Brisbane PD Detective sent the trailer's owner to Raymond Avenue.

Police Summaries

*May 17 Felton and University Sts., stolen automobile
 *May 18 Mansell and Bowdoin Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
 *May 18 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, breaking windows
 *May 19 8 a.m., 100 block of Cambridge St., auto burglary occurred between May 19-20, camera taken.
 *May 19 San Bruno Ave. near Campbell Ave., stolen automobile
 *May 19 100 block of Peabody St., aggravated assault with deadly weapon.
 *May 19 Olmstead and Girard Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
 *May 19 100 block of Britton St., malicious mischief, vandalism.
 *May 19 Bowdoin St. near Dwight St., petty theft from locked auto.
 *May 19 Bacon and Brussels Sts., aggravated assault with bodily force.
 *May 20 5:10 p.m., Sunrise Way, domestic violence, criminal threats made by known suspect.
 *May 20 6 p.m., First block of Blythdale Ave., residential burglary occurred between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., forced entry via bedroom window, camera and computer screen taken.
 *May 20 Blythdale Ave. and Hahn St., grand theft from locked auto
 *May 20 San Bruno Ave. at Wayland St., battery
 *May 20 Goettingen St. near Dwight St., petty theft from locked auto.
 *May 20 Delta St. and Harkness Ave., possession of marijuana
 *May 20 Bayshore Blvd. and Arleta Ave., robbery of chain store with gun.
 *May 20 Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., burglary of residence, forcible entry
 *May 20 Felton and Goettingen Sts., robbery on street with gun.
 *May 21 San Bruno Ave. at Silliman St., robbery, bodily force.
 *May 21 Peninsula and Lathrop Aves., attempted robbery on street with gun.
 *May 21 Sunnydale Ave. and Desmond St., robbery on street with gun.
 *May 21 Santos St. near Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism.
 *May 21 San Bruno Ave. at Felton St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
 *May 22 5:20 p.m., 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., residential burglary occurred between 8:15 and 9:30 a.m., entry via window, leather bag taken.
 *May 22 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, hot prowling, unlawful entry
 *May 23 7:20 a.m., 900 Silliman St., burglary
 *May 23 3 p.m., 500 block of University St., burglary
 *May 23 11 p.m., Santos St. and Velasco Ave., strong arm robbery, 15 year-old Visitation Valley boy was robbed of his iPod while riding a Muni bus
 *May 23 Campbell Ave. and Somerset St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
 *May 23 400 block of Raymond Ave., grand theft from person.
 *May 23 Sunnydale and Garrison Aves., stolen truck.
 *May 23 Wayland and University Sts., burglary, forcible entry
 *May 23 Velasco Ave. and Santos St., attempted robbery with bodily force.
 *May 24 8:33 p.m., 400 Wayland St., burglary
 *May 24 Silver Ave. and Somerset St., petty theft from locked auto
 *May 24 Wayland and Girard Sts., stolen automobile
 *May 24 Wayland St. between Goettingen and Somerset Sts., burglary of residence, attempted forcible entry
 *May 24 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., robbery on street with gun.
 *May 25 Mansell and Goettingen Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism.
 *May 25 100 block of Peabody St., battery
 *May 25 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
 *May 25 Bacon and Hamilton Sts., stolen automobile.
 *May 26 10 a.m., 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., criminal threats, victim received threats over three day period from known suspect in domestic violence case
 *May 26 12:30 p.m., 600 block of Campbell Ave., theft occurred between May 22 and 24, four tires and rims taken from parked vehicle.
 *May 26 Silver Ave. and Goettingen St., tampering with vehicle.
 *May 26 Dwight and Girard Sts., aggravated assault with deadly weapon.
 *May 26 Dwight and Girard Sts., attempted homicide with dangerous weapon.
 *May 26 Dwight and Girard Sts., burglary, hot prowling, forcible entry
 *May 26 Dwight and Girard Sts., arson.
 *May 26 Bayshore Blvd. at Tunnel Ave., petty theft

from locked auto

*May 26 Bayshore Blvd. at Tunnel Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
 *May 27 Olmstead and University Sts., grand theft from locked auto.
 *May 27 San Bruno Ave. at Felton St., robbery on street with dangerous weapon.
 *May 28 Sunnydale Ave. and Hahn St., robbery, bodily force
 *May 28 Blythdale Ave. and Hahn St., malicious mischief, vandalism.
 *May 28 Silver Ave. and Holyoke St., attempted robbery on street with bodily force
 *May 28 Silliman and Holyoke Sts., possession of marijuana.
 *May 28 100 block of Britton St., burglary, forcible entry
 *May 28 Carter St. near Geneva Ave., battery
 *May 28 Dwight and Dartmouth Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism
 *May 29 12 noon, 100 block of Britton St., commercial burglary occurred between May 28 and 29, laundry coinboxes forced open and money taken.
 *May 29 Santos St. near Sunnydale Ave., petty theft from locked auto
 *May 29 400 block of Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism.
 *May 29 San Bruno Ave. at Silliman St., malicious mischief, vandalism.
 *May 29 Geneva Ave. and Santos St., battery
 *May 29 Dwight and Girard Sts., tampering with vehicle
 *May 29 Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
 *May 30 100 block of Blythdale Ave., malicious mischief, breaking windows
 *May 31 10 a.m., 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., residential burglary occurred between 8:40 and 9:15 a.m., entry via back door, computer taken.
 *May 31 6 p.m., Bacon and Holyoke Sts., stolen vehicle
 *May 31 10:55 p.m., San Bruno Ave., domestic violence, 32 year-old Portola District woman arrested for felony battery
 *May 31 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry.
 *May 31 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., petty theft from building
 *June 1 6 a.m., 500 block of Dwight St., theft from locked vehicle
 *June 1 Dwight St. between Hamilton and Holyoke Sts., petty theft from unlocked auto
 *June 1 First block of Brookdale Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism.
 *June 1 Mansell St. and Visitation Ave., malicious mischief, breaking windows
 *June 1 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, hot prowling, forcible entry
 *June 2 First block of Arleta Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
 *June 2 400 block of Raymond Ave., possession of marijuana
 *June 2 Velasco Ave. and Castillo St., battery
 *June 2 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., possession of meth-amphetamine
 *June 2 Felton and Girard Sts., stolen truck.
 *June 3 Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., aggravated assault with knife
 *June 3 Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., grand theft from person.
 *June 3 Tocaloma Ave. near Lathrop Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
 *June 3 Ankeny and Ordway Sts., grand theft purses/natch.
 *June 3 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., possession of controlled substance
 *June 3 Dwight St. between Hamilton and Holyoke Sts., stolen truck.
 *June 4 Olmstead and Cambridge Sts., grand theft from locked auto

Grant to Build Grease-to-Biodiesel Facility

Mayor Gavin Newsom on May 29 announced the receipt of a \$1 million California Energy Commission (CEC) grant to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to build the City's first pilot grease-to-biodiesel production facility.

The facility will be sited at the SFPUC's Oceanside Sewage Treatment Plant, and is considered unique because it will attempt to create three grades of biodiesel from "brown grease", which are pan scrapings and washed oil residue trapped in grease traps/interceptors under a restaurant sink.

There are more than 2.5 million gallons of brown grease in the city, compared with 1.5 million gallons of "yellow grease" like fryer oil. Biodiesel from grease is easily created using the cleaner yellow grease, while brown grease is typically discarded at sewage treatment plants.

"Our program to turn waste cooking oil and yellow grease into biodiesel has been an enormous success, but San Francisco must continue to raise the bar when it comes to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and exploring alternative energies," said Mayor Newsom. "With this grant, our unique brown-grease-to-biodiesel plant will break new ground for sustainable fuel production in California and serve as a model for the entire state."

Brown grease can be refined and created into three "grades" of biodiesel:

*June 4 Leland Ave. and Alpha St., possession of marijuana for sales
 *June 4 Leland Ave. and Alpha St., possession of controlled substance
 *June 4 Wheeler Ave. near Lathrop Ave., petty theft from locked auto
 *June 4 100 block of Loehr St., possession of marijuana
 *June 4 Velasco Ave. and Santos St., stolen automobile
 *June 5 7:30 a.m., 100 block of Ankeny St., auto burglary occurred between June 4 and 5, camera, iPod, cell phone charge, money, and sunglasses taken.
 *June 5 Blanken and Nueva Aves., aggravated assault with bodily force
 *June 5 San Bruno Ave. at Dwight St., robbery on street, strongarm
 *June 6 Bayshore Blvd. and Visitation Ave., battery
 *June 6 Bayshore Blvd. and Visitation Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
 *June 6 Velasco Ave. and Castillo St., robbery on street, strongarm.
 *June 7 Blythdale Ave. and Hahn St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
 *June 7 100 block of Britton St., malicious mischief, breaking windows
 *June 7 Visitation Ave. and Rutland St., grand theft from locked auto
 *June 7 First block of Brookdale Ave., battery
 *June 8 2:45 a.m., 600 block of Dwight St., theft from locked vehicle
 *June 8 10:30 p.m., 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., residential burglary occurred between 6:30 and 10:15 p.m., forced entry via rear window, unknown loss.
 *June 8 First block of Brookdale Ave., battery
 *June 8 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry
 *June 8 Dwight St. near Hamilton St., attempted theft from locked vehicle
 *June 8 Bacon and Bowdoin Sts., battery
 *June 9 First block of Leland Ave., burglary, store under construction, forcible entry
 *June 9 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
 *June 9 San Bruno Ave. at Wayland St., robbery, armed with gun
 *June 10 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., attempted theft from locked vehicle
 *June 11 Hahn St. at Blythdale Ave., aggravated assault with gun.
 *June 11 Brussels and Silliman Sts., grand theft from locked auto
 *June 12 1:50 p.m., 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., residential burglary occurred between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., entry via open bedroom window, Play Stations and iPod taken.
 *June 12 San Bruno Ave. and Burrows St., grand theft from building.
 *June 12 Brussels and Mansell Sts., robbery, bodily force
 *June 12 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of residence, unlawful entry
 *June 12 San Bruno Ave. and Burrows St., grand theft from building
 *June 13 Girard St. and Wide Ave., stolen automobile.
 *June 13 Blythdale Ave. near Santos St., aggravated assault with gun
 *June 13 Argonaut and Burr Aves., petty theft from locked auto
 *June 13 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., aggravated assault with gun
 *June 14 Bayshore Blvd. at Leland Ave., battery
 *June 14 Wide Ave. at Rutland St., grand theft from locked auto
 *June 15 Girard St. near Silver Ave., aggravated assault with deadly weapon
Captain Denis O'Leary of Ingleside Station and Captain John Loftus of Bayview Station contributed to this report.

*High-grade American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) certified biodiesel for vehicles;

*Lower grade biofuel source for running sewage treatment plant diesel plant turbines and pumps; and

*Richenergy for cogeneration – the process of capturing methane gas at the sewage plant and converting that to heating/electrical needs.

The CEC is looking closely at this and similar projects to help cover California's anticipated one billion gallon shortfall of biodiesel by 2022. The shortfall is anticipated even with a growing number of yellow grease recycling programs like the SFGreasecycle, which the City launched in November 2007 to collect yellow grease from restaurants to fuel City vehicles, buses and fire trucks. The SFPUC, which manages the SFGreasecycle program, will also manage the brown grease pilot project.

The construction of the brown grease biodiesel facility should be complete in December 2008.

"Sewage treatment plants account for three percent of the nation's electrical consumption because they run 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said SFPUC General Manager Ed Harrington, "This brown-grease to biodiesel project is a win-win for our ratepayers and the environment. We'll keep more grease out of the sewers AND reduce our reliance on outside energy sources for our treatment plants."

Joe Leland around the neighborhood

*Street Fair Office on Leland: The 3rd Annual Leland Avenue Street Fair is rapidly approaching. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 14th, 2008. The Visitation Valley Businesses Opportunities and Outreach to Merchants (VVBOOM) program has secured a temporary office on Leland Ave to better promote the Valley's greatest family friendly event of the year. The office is located at 91 Leland Ave. at Alpha Street. For more information, call VVBOOM Program Manager Nick Wolff at (415) 587-7896, x104.

*Blanken Bayshore Buildings: The vacant lot across from the old Schlage Lock office building was sold a few years ago but remained untouched until shortly after the Great Little Hollywood Fire of '08. Plans were presented to the neighborhood in 2007 for a four-story over-underground garage condo building with at least one storefront on the Bayshore side. The garage entry will be on Blanken. No word regarding when the building will be complete but major excavation and foundation work is underway. It should be noted that the former Cliff's BBQ building that was damaged during the inferno was (and presumable still is) slated for demolition and replacement with a three story mixed use building.

*New Awnings and Paint: A fresh coat of paint or a new awning on a small business is always a good sign. It shows the public that the property owner or merchant cares about how they are perceived. Nayanit Taqueria located at 98 Leland Ave was repainted. Shun Lee Market (2400 Bayshore) and G and K Retail (15 Leland Ave.) installed new awnings. The next time you're on Leland Avenue, visit these establishments and express to the owner how much you appreciate them making the effort.

*R.I.P. "T": Last month, the Grapevine reported an error of cataclysmic proportions. "Visitation" was erroneously spelled with a "T" (Visitation) in a repaired sidewalk at the intersection of Desmond Street and Visitation Avenue. Before the general public could gather around and snicker, however, DPW sent a repair crew to make it right. Visitation with the "T" is no more. Rest in Peace "T."

Milestones in Housing Reform Efforts

Mayor Gavin Newsom on June 12 announced completion of a series of initial milestones set forth to reform the San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA), including the appointment of Henry A. Alvarez III as the new Executive Director of the agency.

Joined by Housing Authority Commissioners and members of the transition team, Mayor Newsom also announced a doubling of residents on a recently created Rental Assistance Program (RAP) that aims to provide incentives to tenants to pay back their rent and remain current, as well as the renovation of over 410 Housing Authority units because of funds appropriated through HOPE SF and by the SFHA.

"San Francisco is making an unprecedented investment to rebuild our public housing," said Mayor Newsom. "I am excited that Henry Alvarez will be coming on board to provide the leadership and initiative needed to realize the goals of HOPE SF and reconnect the City to the Housing Authority."

"I am excited to work alongside Mayor Newsom and his administration," said Alvarez. "There is much to do and I am looking forward to working collaboratively with the community, residents, and the stakeholders to take the San Francisco Housing Authority to the next level. My skills and experience will lend themselves to this great opportunity."

For the past four years, Alvarez served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Antonio Housing Authority. Prior to San Antonio, Alvarez served in several roles at housing agencies in Oregon

and San Diego. He was instrumental in turning around agencies that were on the brink of being listed as "troubled" under HUD.

In San Antonio, Alvarez was responsible for creating more than 6,400 units, 12,000 housing vouchers, and 3,200 affordable housing units that served more than 50,000 low-income residents. He is scheduled to begin his new post on July 14.

Rental Assistance Program (RAP) Launched in February in HuntersView to get residents back in good standing as tenants, the RAP is a partnership with the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH), Communities of Opportunity, and the SFHA to provide incentives to tenants to pay back their rent and remain current going forward.

Through the RAP, the SFHA has been able to double the amount of residents on a payment program. This effort will help tenants transition to good standing and secure housing in the redeveloped HOPE SF housing complex.

Of the 151 units at Hunters View, 135 are now current on rent and participating in the payment program. All of the remaining residents have been engaged by outreach workers.

Housing Back On-Line

Recently, the SFHA and the Mayor's SFHA transition team committed to fixing up vacant apartments and making them available to new residents quicker than in years past. Since January, staff has renovated over 410 units and made them available for rent. 70 of those units were paid for through last year's HOPE SF appropriation. The rest were paid for by the SFHA.

Rise in Bay Area Consumer Price Indexes

The special aggregate index for energy increased 5.6 percent in May and was 13.0 percent higher than in May 2007, according to a recent report by Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Gasoline prices rose 5.2 percent in May 2008 and dominated the increase in the overall energy index. Over the year, gasoline prices were 15.6 percent higher.

The household energy index increased 5.8 percent for the month and advanced 4.4 percent for the year. Within household fuels, electricity prices increased 6.9 percent for the month, but decreased 1.0 percent over the year. The utility (piped) gas service index increased 3.4 percent from April to May and was 16.3 percent higher than in May 2007.

The shelter index advanced 0.4

percent in May 2008 and was 1.9 percent higher compared to one year earlier. Within shelter, the rent of primary residence edged up 0.1 percent last month and was 4.1 percent higher than in May 2007.

The owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index rose 0.3 percent over the month and increased 2.6 percent over the year. Also included in shelter, but not part of the publication structure, are price data collected for lodging away from home.

Area grocery prices were up 1.6 percent from April to May, and were 7.1 percent higher than a year ago. The food at home index now stands at 228.742. This means grocery shoppers in the greater Bay Area spent \$228.74 in May for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Grapevine Puzzler

L R O B I N A G I M R A L P W O L L I W
A D E K C E N G N I R E S E N I H C E O
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U R A N S R N D R K O I E A N A A U E S
P D E N E L O I R O C Q N L I L C Q S H

Yellowhammer	Brown Thrasher	Baltimore Oriole	Island Red
Willow Plamigan	Hawaiian Goose	Robin	Carolina Wren
Cactus Wren	Mountain Bluebird	Common Loon	Chinese Pheasant
Mockingbird	Cardinal	Bluebird	Ring-Necked Pheasant
California Valley Quail	Eastern Goldfinch	Purple Finch	Seagull
Lark	Western Meadowlark	Roadrunner	Hermit Thrush
Bunting	Eastern Brown Pelican	Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher	Willow Goldfinch
American Robin	Chickadee	Ruffed Grouse	Meadowlark
Blue Hen Chicken		Rhode	Thrush

Historic Proportions

1870
Match clues to answers.

- France declares war on this country on July 19.
- Declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26.
- Construction of this began Jan. 3.
- A first in New York City opened on Feb. 26.
- On June 22, the U.S. Congress created this.
- This entered into the U.S. Constitution on Mar. 30.
- On Feb. 12, women gained the right to vote here.
- In the United States, this newly-created department made its first official forecast on Nov. 1.
- John D. Rockefeller incorporated this on Jan. 10.
- The last former Confederate state was readmitted to the Union on July 15.

11. Emperor of France was deposed when the Third Republic was declared on Sept. 4.

12. Founded in New York City on Feb. 10.

A. Standard Oil
B. 15th Amendment
C. Christmas
D. Weather Bureau
E. Department of Justice
F. Prussia
G. YWCA
H. Napoleon III
I. Brooklyn Bridge
J. Georgia
K. Pneumatic subway
L. Utah Territory

Answers: 1-F, 2-C, 3-I, 4-K, 5-E, 6-B, 7-L, 8-D, 9-A, 10-J, 11-H, 12-G.

As a Matter of Fact

*Barley was probably the first cereal harvested by people. Grains have been found in Egypt that are believed to be 5,000 years old.

*In the world of horses, a palomino is a light tan or golden horse with an ivory or cream-colored mane and tail. A sabino is a roan or light red horse with a white belly.


*If you think changing clocks for daylight savings time is a nuisance, consider the shadow clock, which told ancient Egyptians the number of hours before or after noon. The clock had to be turned around each day at noon.

Grapevine Five Years Ago

JULY 2003
*Neighborhood residents attended a June 14 meeting of the Visitation Valley Planning Alliance for an update on the Segment F construction of the Third Street Light Rail on Bayshore Boulevard.

*More than 700 guests attended the 32nd annual Visitation Valley Middle School promotion activity at Burton High School on June 5.

Sump, the Gump



Answers: 1-D, 2-A, 3-H, 4-B, 5-L, 6-C, 7-F, 8-C, 9-E.

Baby Boomers

by Rix Quinn

Open House

Some schools called it "open house." Other schools called it "parents' night." Either way, it was a big deal in the 1960s and 1970s for Baby Boomer students.

"We'd prepare for this a week or two ahead," recalled one Boomer. "We'd put a representative sample of our best work on display."

"At open house night, our parents would walk through the classrooms, admire our work, and take a little time to talk with the teacher. For a few of us — me included — this was a scary time."

"What would the teacher say about me? Something bad? Would she tell how I got in trouble at recess a few days ago?"

"Fortunately, the teachers would talk about our best points. And for that I was deeply grateful."

TV Antennas

Some of us Boomer kids had television antennas on our home's roof. This allowed the house to pick up television transmissions from the air, and broadcast them on our TV sets.

For those of us without roof antennas...we relied on "rabbit ears." Those antennas usually sat atop the TV set, and brought remarkable reception to us.

This wonderful invention, I'm told, is in major use today. A reported 28 million Americans still receive TV signals through the air, and likely a large number of them still use rabbit ears. They're a great example of a remarkable, affordable invention that still brings television to millions of consumers.

Shopping Center

Did you have a neighborhood shopping center? In the 1960s, I remember one center quite well.

Poor Rix Almanac

by Rix Quinn

Poor Rix: Our family will soon take a summer trip. Where did the idea of vacations come from? — Car Traveler

The word comes from two roots: "vacate," which means to leave, and "shun," which means avoid. Therefore vacation means, "to shun the comfort of your town for a rustic motel near coyotes."

Cash-heavy vacationers — also called "walking wallets" — prepare for the excursion by selecting a locale. Popular destinations include (1) theme parks, (2) large cities with names jealous neighbors will recognize, and (3) historic sites like museums or dinosaur tracks. (Have you ever seen dinosaurs race? Did they have jockeys?)

Next, ask yourself about accommodations. Do you want (1) a room with nearby swimming pool, (2) a room with kitchenette, (3) a room with a flush toilet?

Poor Rix — who's been to more motels than that guy who sells little complimentary soap bars — offers these thoughts:

1. Select appropriate clothing. Swimwear may be OK for the beach, but rarely at a dude ranch, unless you are a supermodel.
2. Don't forget money, travelers' checks, or credit cards. Whoever said, "the best things in life are free" never asked for adjoining rooms.
3. Take lots of video. You'll enjoy watching it. And you can show it to visitors when you want them to leave.

Dear Poor Rix: Why don't I see birds at night? Where do they go? — Bird Watcher

You can't see birds at night because it gets dark. I don't know where birds go in the evening, because Poor Rix cannot fly without a boarding pass.

Birds don't seem to need much slumber. They rest by closing their eyes and standing still, like Poor Rix does when he's waiting in a grocery line.

I guess birdies take catnaps too ... but nowhere near a cat.

Ways to Prevent Joint Discomfort

by Jason Theodosakis, M.D.

Following a few simple steps can keep joints healthy, prevent pain and help you stay active—whether you're 30 years old, 70 years old or anywhere in between. Try these tips:

- *Consult a physician if you have persistent joint problems.
- *Devise an exercise plan that provides at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise a day.
- *Prevent sports injury through strengthening, balance and agility drills. Also, switch from high-risk sports and activities to those with less risk; biking instead of running, for instance.
- *Consider using a glucosamine/chondroitin supplement such as Osteo Bi-flex.

Taken in combination, glucosamine and chondroitin can promote flexibility, renew cartilage and lubricate joints.

For more information, visit www.osteobiflex.com.

Dr. Theodosakis is author of the No. 1 New York Times best seller "The Arthritis Cure, revised edition."

NAPS

State Reminded to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle This Summer

Many Californians will consume more bottled water and other cold beverages this summer while enjoying outdoor activities with their friends and families. The DOC wants to remind everyone to use reusable beverage containers whenever they can, and if they need to use single-use aluminum, plastic or glass bottles, to remember to recycle.

According to the DOC, Californians consumed 21.9 billion beverage containers in 2007; 8.2 billion ended up in landfills.

"Whether people take their empties to a recycling center for a refund, put them in a curbside recycling bin, or remember to recycle when they're at work or out and about, the environment wins," said Bridgett Luther, director of the DOC.

To find nearby recycling centers, visit bottlesandcans.com and enter their zip code, or call the Department of Conservation toll-free hotline, 1-800-RECYCLE.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19			20	21			
		22		23	24		25		26	27
28	29	30		31		32			33	
34				35					36	
37				38				39		
40			41			42		43		
		44			45		46		47	48
50	51				52	53	54		55	
56					57				58	
59					60				61	

ACROSS

1 Cheer
4 Send
8 First Chinese dynasty
12 Or best offer (abbr.)
13 Revelry cry
14 Italic (abbr.)
15 Indo-Chinese language
16 Equal Employment Opportunity
22 Physician (pref.)
25 River through Orleans
28 Hindu sacred writings
31 Indigo dye
33 Harden

34 Here (Fr.)
35 Silly
36 Alas
37 Exclamations of delight
38 Hodgepodge
39 Pronoun contraction
40 Buddhist monk in nirvana
42 Gr. Wine container
44 Son of Ruth
46 Scot. Island
50 Blue Nile source lake
52 Down with (Fr. 2 words)
55 Edible root
56 Political union
57 Levy
58 Exclamations of

delight
59 Medical fluids
60 River into the North Sea
61 Goddess (Lat.)
DOWN
1 Frolic
2 Hillside shelter
3 Time period
4 Eng. Dramatist
5 Greeting
6 River rapids
7 Cult
8 Horse (pref.)
9 Nest
10 Honey-eater bird
11 According to (2 words)
19 Tumor (suff.)
21 Unite
23 Irish assembly
24 Indian (Sp.)

26 Spin
27 Jewish month
28 Musical instrument (string)
29 Lower of Narcissus
30 Shame
32 Pagan god
35 Dispelled
39 Noun-forming (suff.)
41 Manila hemp
43 Not in style
45 Carpike fish
47 Way
48 Pain
49 National Aeronautics and Space (abbr.)
50 Tablespoon (abbr.)
51 Malt liquor
53 Ten decibels
54 Asbestos

Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code
Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300.

AQUARIUM

DRAGON CITY AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave., 333-4598

AUTOMOTIVE

BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130

BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5209

BROTHERS AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd.

CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2560 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450

TW AUTOMOTIVE, 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281

BANK

BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave., 622-4501

BAKERS

LITTLE QUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253

BARBERS

BARBERSHOP, 3570 San Bruno Ave., 724-4398

EMMA'S HAIR SALON, 36 Leland Ave., 587-7429

THE SHOP (JB), 160A Leland Ave., 239-6709

BEAUTICIANS

BODY SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261

FACE, BODY & SOUL, 3682 San Bruno Ave., 467-3223

HONG KONG HAIR & NAIL BEAUTY SALON, 199 Leland Ave., 333-1005

LUCKY HAIR, 2436 Bayshore Blvd., 586-8289

MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381

MIZ RENA'S SALON, 19 Blanken Ave., 467-3369

NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800

WHO'S BADD, 224 Leland Ave., 657-3156

BLIND CLEANING

SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Grand St., 467-7506

BOARDING HOUSE

ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rutland St., 333-4664, fax 333-4683

BOOKKEEPERS

AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927

VERNA WALLACE E.A., 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333

CARPETS

HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave., 333-6382

CHURCHES

CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5950

IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave.

KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213

RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381

VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave., 467-6065

VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503

COFFEE

CANDLESTOCK COFFEE, 2156 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2442

HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 469-5309

JOE LELAND CAFE, 28 Leland Ave.

CREDIT UNION

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 29 Leland Ave., 434-0738

DAY CARE

CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St., 469-5353

DENTIST

VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5600

DEVELOPERS

VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CORPORATION, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7896

ELECTRICAL

TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657

FLOORS

TEDDY B'S HARDWOOD FLOORS, 309-6342

FLORISTS

IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave., 468-0145

GARDEN ORNAMENTS

SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2636 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990

GROCERS

CASA LOPEZ PRODUCE, 58 Leland Ave., 586-4745

E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240

FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300

LA LOMA PRODUCE #2, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520

LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815

M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878

PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800

7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646

SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851

SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6856

TEOOY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave.

HERBS

SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave., 333-7469

HYPNOTHERAPY

VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave., 468-5631

INSURANCE

EDIE EPPS (A.H.E. INSURANCE), 467-0236, Fax 467-0276

ROBERT LEHMAN, CLTC (Blue Cross), 333-0850

KITCHEN CABINETS

LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, 25 Leland Ave., 333-2730

LANDSCAPING

SAN FRANCISCO LANDSCAPES, 256 Talbert St., 585-9137, sfscapes.com

LAUNDRY/CLEANERS

BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave.

QTY WASH, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467

CORNY WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave.

FOOTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418

LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412

VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave.

VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030

LEARNING

FIRST PLACE 2 START, 1252 Sunnydale Ave., 333-2659

HERITAGE HOMES CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 245 Rey St., 586-8700

JOHN KING CHILDO AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 500 Raymond Ave., 333-1375

VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907

VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS, 103 Tucker Ave., 467-5565

VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 585-9320

LIBRARY

VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH, 45 Leland Ave., 239-5270

MANUFACTURER

SEE'S CANDIES, INC., 345 Schwenn St.

MEDICAL

AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave., 584-3620

HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept. of Public Health), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., Appointments: 715-0310

OR SAM HO, MO, 2858 San Bruno Ave., 337-6135

NEW CARNIVAL ACUPRESSURE HEALTH CENTER, 2458 Bayshore Blvd., 337-8100

NORTH EAST MEDICAL SERVICES, LELAND AVENUE, 82 Leland Ave., 391-9696 (ask for Leland Avenue clinic)

PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Dr. Divyang Patel), 2858 San Bruno Ave., 467-7500

NOTARY

ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE, 46 Leland Ave., 333-4900

ORGANIZATIONS

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 2442 Bayshore Blvd., 587-2689

GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave., 584-2700

GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnydale Ave., 333 Schwen St., 584-4044

JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233

LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000

ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave., 333-4001

VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave., 467-4499

PHARMACY

VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave., 239-5811

PHOTOGRAPHER

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Americans Driving Fewer Highway Miles

WASHINGTON – At a time of record-high gas prices and a corresponding surge in transit ridership, Americans are driving less for the sixth month in a row, highlighting

the need to find a more sustainable and effective way to fund highway construction and maintenance, said U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters.

Saturdays are Special At Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Workshops are \$3 per child; \$5 for a parent and child combo. All kids under 8 must be with a paying adult. Call 554-9600 for further information.

*July 5: Use wood scrap and wire to make your own wooden trains.

*July 12: Cut, fold, glue, and embellish to make a fantastic (scary or not) monster mask.

*July 26: Wrap fabric around wood and wire to make dolls from your imagination, then decorate with sequins, buttons, and trim.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

*Morning Family Ceramics from 10 to 11:30 a.m. (\$5 per person workshop fee)

*Meet the Animals from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

*Animal Feeding at 12 noon.

*Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun, Wind and Water Day

Join Randall staff and volunteers and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission on July 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to explore what sun, wind and water do for us and for the earth.

Try experiments and arts and crafts. Dance and sing along with kid-friendly live entertainment. Splash and play with pinwheels, sailboats, water monsters, and more.

Admission and most activities are free! Funded in part by a generous grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Secretary said that Americans drove 1.4 billion fewer highway miles in April 2008 than at the same time a year earlier and 400 million miles less than in March of this year. She added that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on all public roads for April 2008 fell 1.8 percent as compared with April 2007 travel. This marks a decline of nearly 20 billion miles traveled this year, and nearly 30 billion miles traveled since November.

"We're burning less fuel as energy costs changed driving patterns, steer people toward more fuel efficient vehicles and encourage more to use transit. Which is exactly why we need a more effective funding source than the gas tax," Secretary Peters said.

The Secretary said as Americans drive less, the federal Highway Trust Fund receives less revenue from gasoline and diesel sales – 18.4 cents per gallon and 24.4 cents per gallon, respectively.

The Secretary noted that data show midsize SUV sales were down last month 38 percent over May of last year; car sales, which had accounted for less than half of the industry volume in 2007, rose to 57 percent in May. She said past trends have shown Americans will continue to drive despite high gas prices, but will drive more fuel efficient vehicles consuming less fuel. "History shows that we're going to continue to see congested roads while gas tax revenues decline even further," she said.

"As positive as any move toward greater fuel efficiency is, we need to make sure we have the kind of sustainable funding measures in place to support needed highway and transit improvements well into the future," said Acting Federal Highway Administrator Jim Ray.

Visitacion Valley Family and Community Services Center



For a Better, Healthier, Safer Community for All

We Can Help You!

Complete Immigration documents, assist with SF County paperwork (Medi-Cal, Welfare, etc.), education workshops, referrals to other services

Jumpstart Hands-on Literacy
Fridays, 4:30 - 7 p.m.
66 Raymond Ave. (Gym)

July 11: Early Reading:
Brown Bear, Brown Bear

July 18: Science:
In an Ox's Stomach

July 25: Literacy Everywhere:
How to Make an Apple Pie

Second Series of

Parents' Support Group
Thursday, July 10
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Feelings and Emotions

Facilitated by Julia Carmen and Associates

Enhanced Information and Referral

Every Monday Through Friday
July 1 to 31, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Male Involvement Group

"Tie Dye"
Saturday, July 19, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Literacy with Games and Activities

Second Series: Math 1, 2, 3 and Beyond
Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Every Wednesday

July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
6 - 8 p.m.

Men's Classes
Facilitated by
Before The After
FREE Refreshments

Free Food Distribution

Every Monday,
3 - 4 p.m.
July 7, 14, 21 and 28
Emergency food box
available anytime.
Call (415) 586-6998,
Monday-Friday,
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Family and Community Services Center staff:
Meriam Abalos, Marichelle Punzalan, Cynthia Pun,
Joyce Boone, and Jenny Sosa



161 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134

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Cathy Kline Saunders
Swimming with her twin sisters at Russian River
Circa 1958



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